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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 224 | WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Based on your current understanding of the CW rule, how would you rate the ease or difficulty it presents to doing business in the Commonwealth?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Less Effective

The whooping cough vaccine loses much of its effectiveness after just three years.

NATION...Page 14

After-Effects

Survivors of an earthquake in the Himalayas spend a miserable night outdoors.

ASIA...Page 16

Killed Off

'Two and a Half Men' kills off Charlie Sheen's character in season premiere.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Impasse on budget issues resolved

»House, Senate set sessions to pass spending bill this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government employees and the public fearing another partial shutdown may now heave a sigh of relief after a joint House and Senate committee was able to break the deadlock yesterday on most issues that were blocking the forward momentum of the fiscal year 2012 budget plan.

The eight-member conference committee was able to reach a compromise on the major differences between the House and Senate versions of the $102 million spending bill, including increased funding for education, lawmakers' and leadership accounts, and Rota and Tinian allocations, sources said.

The breakthrough comes with less than two weeks to go before the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Among other things, the 29 lawmakers' individual allocation will no longer be "zeroed out" as senators had proposed but will remain at the current level of over $71,000 a year.

The House and Senate leadership accounts are also no longer zeroed out, but will remain at $138,000 each.

"I am confident there will be no shutdown," said one of the lawmakers.

The Northern Marianas College and the Public School System will get additional funding of $2 million to $3 million as

See IMPASSE on Page 4

Hundreds crowd first day of USCIS outreach on CW

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gulick, left, briefs employers about the final Commonwealth-only worker rule, while Monica Verma from the USCIS California Service Center and Philip Busch, right, from the USCIS Office of Chief Counsel, look on during a USCIS outreach session at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium for employers from 2pm to 4pm yesterday.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Hundreds of employers and employees swamped the first day of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' outreach program yesterday, with so many people crowding the indoor auditorium of the American Memorial Park for the 2pm session that the USCIS was forced to set an unscheduled session later at 4pm.

ON THE NET

For more information about the CW rule:
- www.uscis.gov/cnmi
- www.uscis.gov/cw
- www.youtube.com/user/uscis

USCIS officials held four sessions in all from morning 'til night to provide an overview of the final rule governing foreign workers in the CNMI and to answer questions from

See HUNDREDS on Page 4

2011 INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Almost 5K lbs of trash collected

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A total of 4,940 lbs of trash were collected during this year's International Coastal Cleanup held Friday and Saturday throughout several beaches and coastal locations on island.

Guy Macaranas, Coastal Resources Management's 2011 Coastal Cleanup coordinator, said the trash collection for this year's cleanup is lower compared to last year's, which totaled over 6,000 lbs.

"This is good because it means that more and more people are picking up after themselves when they go to the beach and hold parties," Macaranas told *Saipan Tribune*.

Macaranas disclosed that based on the data sheets they collected from the volunteers who participated in the cleanup, cigarette butts comprised the biggest number of trash at 1,601 pieces. Other items collected

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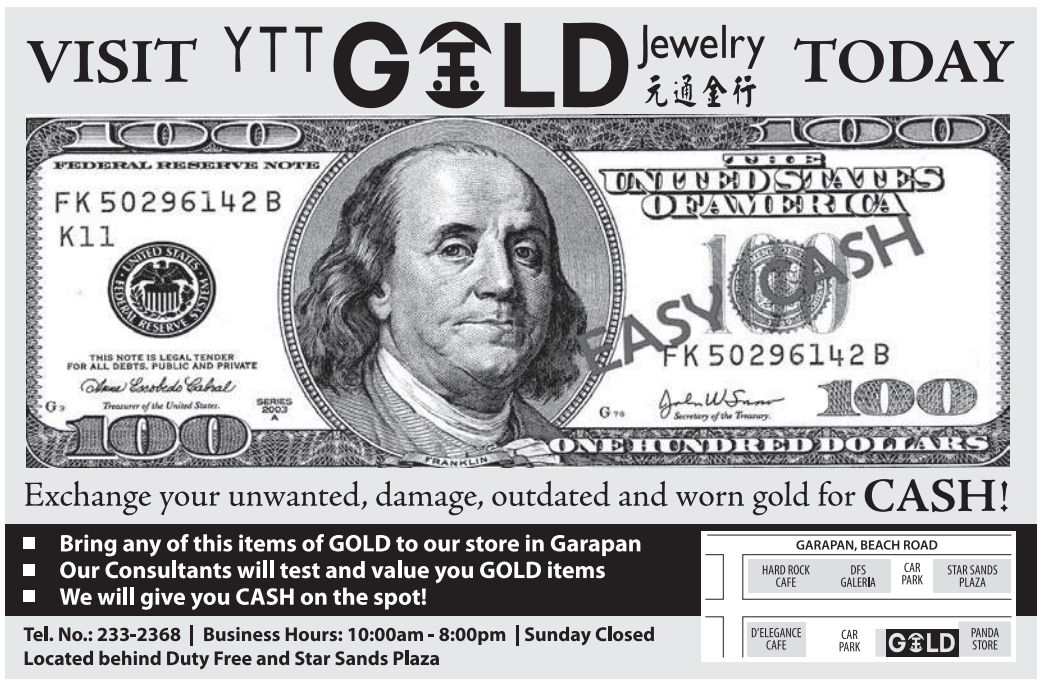
New fuel pipeline for Saipan power plants underway. PAGE 2
Deferment of SHEFA student loans eyed. PAGE 8

Local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New fuel pipeline for Saipan power plants gets underway

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After the successful rerouting and realignment of sewer lift station W-8 last week, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has another high priority project in the works: replacing the dilapidated fuel pipeline at its power plants on Saipan to address leaks caused by premature corrosion.

CUC announced yesterday that it was granted a $2.154 million grant by the U.S. Department of the Interior for this project.

CUC was joined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation for a kickoff meeting with the project contractor on Friday.

Smithbridge Guam Inc. was selected to handle the high-priority project, which is expected to begin work in January 2012. The scope of work includes re-designing and replacing the existing aboveground CUC fuel transfer pipeline to power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

Besides replacing the corroded pipeline, this new project will feature a stub-out to the port for direct tanker transfer that will be installed underground. That means CUC will have another option for tanker delivery to the pipeline and the underground installation will mean more protection from traffic or typhoon damage.

Utility officials said the project design was extensively reviewed by CUC and the DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, in conjunction with EPA.

"Pipelines must be designed and constructed to allow for the passage of internal inspection/cleaning devices (called smart pigs). The new pipeline, once completed, will require periodic inspection and maintenance. The operators of the pipeline will require additional training and the pipeline will be operated and records maintained in line with the required codes and regulations," explained CUC officials.

The agency recently hired an EPA-approved construction manager who has prior experience installing similar pipelines. CUC said that project materials will be ordered as soon as they are approved. Fabrication and site work is expected to start in January 2012.

According to CUC, the existing pipeline was built in the early '90s and is heavily rusted and in danger of failing under pressure. It has a history of leaks, due to premature corrosion. Construction of the replacement of the existing 8-inch petroleum pipeline with a new 8-inch underground pipeline from the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to the CUC power plant will require about 5,282 feet of pipe. The project will include trenching, valves, pits, pipe jacket, pipe crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, demolition and disposal of old pipeline, and restoration of affected areas.

IN FUND'S TRO REQUEST

Govendo calls for a chamber meeting; no compromise yet

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo called to his chamber yesterday the lawyers involved in the NMI Retirement Fund's request for a temporary restraining order against Public Law 17-51.

Saipan Tribune learned, however, that the chamber meeting did not end with a compromise or ruling. Govendo ordered the parties in the case to submit proposed findings of facts and submissions of law and that's when he will make a decision in the matter.

The Fund is asking for a TRO to stop the enforcement of Public Law 17-51, which allows Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such a lawsuit.

Govendo called for yesterday's in-chamber meeting after hearing the parties' closing arguments.

Attorney Carolyn M. Kern argued on behalf of the Fund, while assistant attorney general Michael A. Stanker argued as counsel for Fitial, Inos, and the Superior Court's clerk of court, in opposing the TRO request.

Attorney Michael Dotts made the closing arguments on behalf of retirees Mariano Taitano, Roman F. Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero who, as intervenors, also oppose the TRO bid.

The TRO hearing began on Monday.

The Fund had also named clerk of court Bernadita Sablan as a co-defendant to stop her from accepting any lawsuit filed pursuant to Public Law 17-51, also known as the Derivative Beneficiaries Act.

Fund counsel Kern questioned the Act's constitutionality and asserted that the TRO will ensure that assets are invested to maximize the length of time that their benefit payments will continue.

Kern cited the "immeasurable hardship" the Fund will face if a TRO is not issued. She said the hardship will be evident when the Fund runs out of money and is no longer to able to make pension payments.

Stanker said all the Fund board needs to do to remedy the situation in which the Fund's agents have quit is to hire new agents.

Dotts pointed out that the Fund still has other managers beside those who have quit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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‘Don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy now officially repealed

By ROBERT BURNS
AP NATIONAL SECURITY WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—After years of debate and months of final preparations, the military can no longer prevent gays from serving openly in its ranks.

Repeal of a 1993 law that allowed gays to serve only so long as they kept their sexual orientation private took effect Tuesday at 12:01 a.m. EDT.

Some in Congress still oppose the change, but top Pentagon leaders have certified that it will not undermine the military’s ability to recruit or to fight wars.

The Army was distributing a business-as-usual statement Tuesday saying simply, “The law is repealed,” and reminding soldiers to treat each other fairly.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, scheduled a Pentagon news conference to field questions about the repeal. And a bipartisan group of congressional supporters of allowing openly gay service planned a news conference on Capitol Hill.

Gay advocacy groups planned a series of celebrations across the country.

Pentagon press secretary George Little said Monday that the military is adequately prepared for the end of the current policy, commonly known as “don’t ask, don’t tell,” under which gays can serve as long as they don’t openly acknowledge their sexual orientation and commanders are not allowed to ask.

“No one should be left with the impression that we are unprepared. We are prepared for repeal,” Little said.

Last week, the Pentagon said 97 percent of the military has undergone training in the new law.

For weeks the military services have accepted applications from openly gay recruits, while waiting for repeal to take effect before processing the applications.

With the lifting of the ban, the Defense Department will publish revised regulations to reflect the new law allowing gays to serve openly. The revisions, such as eliminating references to banned homosexual service, are in line with policy guidance that was issued by top Pentagon officials in January, after Obama signed the legislation that did away with the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy.

The lifting of the 18-year-old ban also brings a halt to all pending investigations, discharges and other administrative proceedings that were begun under the Clinton-era law.

Existing standards of personal conduct, such as those pertaining to public displays of affection, will continue regardless of sexual orientation.

There also will be no immediate changes to eligibility standards for military benefits. All service members already are entitled to certain benefits and entitlements, such as designating a partner as one’s life insurance beneficiary or as designated caregiver in the Wounded Warrior program.

Gay marriage is one of the thornier issues. An initial move by the Navy earlier this year to train chaplains about same-sex civil unions in states where they are legal was halted after more than five dozen lawmakers objected. The Pentagon is reviewing the issue.

Service members who were discharged under the “don’t ask, don’t tell” law will be allowed to re-enlist, but their applications will not be given priority over those of any others with prior military experience who are seeking to re-enlist.

Some in Congress remain opposed to repeal, arguing that it may undermine order and discipline.

A leading advocate, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, said Monday the repeal is overdue.

“Our nation will finally close the door on a fundamental unfairness for gays and lesbians, and indeed affirm equality for all Americans,” the California Democrat said.

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HUNDREDS

From Page 1

the audience.

With barely two months before the Nov. 28 deadline for employers to petition for a Commonwealth-only worker, employers and their employees hope to learn more about the final rule.

USCIS' nine-day outreach sessions, excluding Sunday, will wrap up on Sept. 29.

"This event is useful for us employers and managers who want to maintain our workforce. I recommend others to attend," G4S Security Services-Saipan branch manager Moses Pangelinan told Saipan Tribune after attending the two-hour session for employers at the memorial park.

Pangelinan said that G4S Security Services has over 200 employees on Saipan, and some 145 of those need to be petitioned for CW status.

"Most of my questions were answered, especially on the petition filing fee for multiple employees," he said. "By Oct. 7, I think we can start petitioning them."

The USCIS team held an outreach session with the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter at the Pacific Islands Club yesterday morning, followed by two separate outreach sessions for employers in the afternoon, and one session for the Filipino community and the Philippine Consulate General last night.

With still some 30 minutes to go before the 2pm session for employers at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium, the place was already packed to the rafters. The place was able to accommodate a little over 120 because of extra chairs, per session.

Due to the big crowd, USCIS had to immediately schedule a new 4pm session for those who were not accommodated in the 2pm session.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A large number of employers or their representatives were not accommodated at the 2pm outreach session at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium yesterday, leading USCIS to set another session at 4pm for employers before holding another session for the Filipino community last night.

At 6pm, Filipinos, who make up the majority of foreign workers in the CNMI, turned up in droves at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The team

The USCIS team is headed by district director David Gulick, who served as the main resource speaker during the sessions.

With him are Philip Busch from the Office of Chief Counsel; Irene Adame, acting field office director for Guam; community relations officers Darlene Kutara and Janna Evans; Monica Verma, immigration services officer from USCIS' California Service Center; Claire Nicholson from the Office of Communications; and regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts.

Jess Pantaleon, general manager at PSG Professional Group, an accounting and document handling firm, said all of his questions about the CW rule were answered during the session.

"This is a big help for our company. We also got to hear several other cases and we learned from their examples," he said after attending the 2pm session. He said he arrived at 1:20pm and within minutes, the auditorium was already full.

He said PSG Professional Group, which has 13 employees, saw an increase in the number of "green card" application from families after the final CW rule came out.

"People don't know what to do, so they're asking for help. Everybody is learning from this outreach session. I think it's also a learning process for the USCIS team that is here. That's why they told us we should stand by for developments in the next few days," he said.

Doris Bisnar, a representative of a law firm handling immigration cases, came prepared with a list of questions for the USCIS team at the session for employers.

One of her questions was whether an employer can switch to a CW application if the H1B application is denied, to which she said she received a "yes" response, so long as the employee still has a valid umbrella permit at the time of the CW petition filing.

Bisnar also said their firm saw an increase in the number of individuals applying for "green card" after the CW rule came out.

Former Lands and Natural Resources secretary Dr. Ike Dela Cruz also turned up for the 4pm session to know more about the process of retaining his house worker and two employees for his business, Ike's House and Land Rental and Construction and Farming.

"One of my employees is an electrician, and one is a mason. I hope to retain them, along with my house worker," he said, while lining up.

Annaliza Guancia, who owns a beauty parlor, general merchandise and accounting services firm, said she wants to know whether employers are still required to secure labor bonds and shoulder the medical exam costs for employees, among other things.

Guancia was one of the many employers who were not accommodated for the 2pm session because the auditorium was already filled to capacity. She went back for the 4pm session.

The final CW rule came out almost two years after most CNMI-related provisions of U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, came into effect.

Title VII of PL 110-229 extended most provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI for the first time.

Some points

At the session, Gulick and Evans, among other USCIS team members, gave an overview of the CW rule. Gulick, with the assistance of the rest of the USCIS team, answered several questions from the audience.

Employers may begin filing petitions for workers on Oct. 7, 2011. The last day for filing is Nov. 28.

But Gulick said employers should not wait for the last minute to file petitions.

Employers of foreign workers ineligible for other employment-based nonimmigrant visa classifications can apply for temporary permission to hire workers in the CNMI under the CW classification during the transition period ending on Dec. 31, 2014.

Employers need to prove that they tried to hire qualified U.S. citizens for positions they need to fill, when petitioning for a CW worker.

An employer must sponsor or petition the worker. An employee cannot petition himself.

If the petition is approved, the worker will get CW status. If the petition is denied, work authorization and lawful status end, and the worker should leave the CNMI.

Employers can file for multiple workers on one I-129 CW if the workers have the same job, location and duration of employment.

A spouse and child under 18 of a CW-1 worker are eligible for CW-2 status as dependents.

If a CW-1 worker or CW-2 dependent leaves the CNMI, they must get a visa to return. They must take their original CW approval notice with them.

They are required to make an appointment with a U.S. consulate or embassy in their home country for a nonimmigrant CW visa, not a B1/B2 tourist visa.

The USCIS team encourages people to visit the following websites for more information about the CW rule: www.uscis.gov/cnmi, www.uscis.gov/cw, and www.youtube.com/user/uscis. To speak to someone in person, visit www.uscis.gov and make an InfoPass appointment.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have a private session with the USCIS team today. And at 5pm to 7pm today, there will be a USCIS public session at the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium.

ALMOST

From Page 1

include plastic and glass bottles, beverage cans, plastic spoons and forks, and Styrofoam plates.

This year's cleanup had 29 volunteer groups: the Saipan Rotary Club, McDonald's, Tan Holdings, CTSI Logistics, Fiesta Resort, Hyatt, Saipan Grand, PDM Promoters, Winzler & Kelly, Lions Club, Pacific Islands Club, Northern Marianas College, Phi Theta Kappa, NMC Upward Bound Program, U.S. Coast Guard, Saipan Mayor's Office, Saipan International School, Marianas Visitors Authority with the NMI Diving Operators Association, Marianas Waterworks Corp., Hard Rock Café, Mt. Carmel High School Red Cross Honor Society Club, Marianas Baptist Academy, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Seventh-Day Adventist, Team Yalaka, POI Aviation, Department of Public Lands, Division of Environmental Quality, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Macaranas noted that fewer government agencies took part this year. "I believe this is due to

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's staff and Rotary Club of Saipan members pose for a group photo during the 2011 International Coastal Cleanup event held Friday and Saturday throughout the island. The two groups picked up trash from Garapan Fishing Base to the Hafadai Hotel.

austerity Fridays."

While there are fewer volunteers this year, Macaranas said the event was still a success. "I was happy about the event. It's very successful because people still came out in spite of the rain."

Macaranas noted that the islands of Tinian and Rota had their own coastal cleanups, in coordination with the CRM's field offices and mayor's offices.

Rota's cleanup was held Monday while Tinian will hold it on Thursday.

According to Macaranas, the annual cleanup, held simultaneously in different coastlines around the globe, also forms part of CRM's ongoing Clean Beaches Campaign, which aims to encourage and educate the community about caring for the islands' beaches and marine resources.

The campaign's slogan is "Love your beaches, keep them clean."

Macaranas emphasized that more work needs to be done to educate the community and remind them that "they know better" in terms of caring for the environment.

"If we keep doing these cleanups and educational campaigns, we would have a better tomorrow," he added.

IMPASSE

From Page 1

senators had proposed, but details as to how much of this will come from employers' fee of $150 for each foreign worker hired will be known today.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who joined the conference committee meeting yesterday afternoon, had a conservative estimate of $1.5 million to be collected from the Commonwealth-only worker rule.

Most of these, according to lawmakers, will be given to PSS and NMC.

Tinian and Rota won't get additional funding of $362,719 and $250,000, respectively, as senators had proposed, but Tinian's budget under the House version will be increased by some $110,000, equal to Rota's funding.

The Fitial administration will also provide more information today as to the impact of discontinuing the land lease payment for La Fiesta, which costs the CNMI government some $200,000 annually.

Conferees, as well as the administration, will also find out whether some $500,000 to $700,000 in additional MPLT funds have been remitted and could be an added source of funding.

The conferees are led by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

The other members are Senate vice president Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Rep. Sylvester Iguel.

If and when the conference committee comes up with a draft bill by noon today, that bill could be introduced in today's House session at 2pm.

If the draft bill isn't finalized by tomorrow, then the House could postpone today's session and reset it for Thursday.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) also scheduled yesterday a Friday, 10am session.

The progress made by the conference committee gives hope that the CNMI will not have another partial government shutdown at the start of the fiscal year.

Stanley's local budget bill

In other news, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) prefiled a local budget bill for fiscal year 2012.

Torres, in an interview, said he cannot sit down and do nothing to address a possible shutdown should the budget deadlock continues.

As precautionary measure, he prefiled House Local Bill 17-57, to make appropriations for the operations of Saipan within the CNMI government.

The local bill identifies $94 million in net budgetary resources available for appropriations for the new fiscal year.

NMC student election features 4 candidates

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four candidates were certified as this year's contenders for the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College election next week.

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, said yesterday that these contenders may also be considered sure winners because they are running unopposed for each position available. However, the organization will be allowing write-in candidates for each position during election day on Sept. 26 and 27.

The candidates are Lawrence Camacho for president, Keolester Buenpacifico for vice president, Lauren Jardinero for secretary; and Eldred Sanchez for senator.

Pangilinan said that no candidate was certified eligible to run for treasurer.

Saipan Tribune learned that a total of 59 nominations were received for all positions, including the newly opened seats for student senators. Of all nominees, 14 submitted applications but only five met the eligibility requirements.

The ASNMC approved 23 amendments to its bylaws in the spring 2011 semester. Of these changes, two are considered major: the creation of three senator positions, raising the number of seats to seven; and setting a higher GPA criteria for all elected student leaders. The previous cumulative GPA requirement of 2.5 for a student to become a candidate was raised to 3.2. Once elected, the student leader shall maintain a 3.0 GPA. Failing to maintain the required GPA will cause the student leader's removal from office. Each student leader will have a term of two semesters.

Pangelinan said that only one nominee met the requirements for the three senatorial seats.

According to him, the changes to the ASNMC bylaws have been on the table for two years and were initiated by former president Antonio Tiples last semester.

He is convinced that setting a higher standard for student leaders ensures that "students elected and chosen to lead and become a voice for their peers are also models of academic excellence."

All regular NMC students are considered ASNMC members and are expected to participate in the two-day election. On Thursday, Sept. 22, all candidates will face students in a forum at 3pm at the Student Center.

NMC provides a $100 monthly stipend to officers, who are required to put in 20 hours of service a month.

Ex-DPL secretary testifies at Reksid's trial

Former Department of Public Lands secretary John DelRosario was among the witnesses called by the U.S. government in the ongoing jury trial of former DPL special assistant to the secretary Franz B. Reksid.

After the testimony of a federal special agent, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley called DelRosario to the witness stand.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, DPL administrative assistant Mario Mark Cepeda was called by the prosecution to the witness stand.

DelRosario testified about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's grants to DPL in the total amount of $550,000 that Reksid was involved in. DelRosario said the grants funded the removal and disposal of unexploded ordnance in Marpi.

Reksid served as DPL project manager.

O'Malley showed DelRosario an amended contract of the project, apparently prepared by Reksid, to which DelRosario said he could not recall signing.

Reksid is on trial for one count of bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds. Attorney Mark Hanson is his counsel.

The indictment alleged that Reksid solicited a $3,000 bribe from an owner of a business seeking to obtain the unexploded ordnance cleanup contract with DPL.

EPA funded the contract. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

AGE

Birth – 12 months
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat.
There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

1 – 3 years
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

4 – 7 years
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8 – 12 years
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)

A **REAR-FACING CAR SEAT** is the best seat for your young child to use. It has a harness and in a crash, cradles and moves with your child to reduce the stress to the child's fragile neck and spinal cord.

A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.

For more information please contact CNMI Department of Public Safety – Highway Safety Office at 664-9001/9085

Limtiaco: 3 prosecutors leaving

»US Attorney mum on McCallum's complaint

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Assistant U.S. attorneys Eric O'Malley, James Benedetto, and Kirk Schuler will be leaving Saipan to relocate or fulfill overseas assignments, according to U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco yesterday.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office is undergoing transitioning within our Saipan branch," Limtiaco told the media after the Saipan Rotary Club's general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan where she was a guest speaker.

Limtiaco stressed that O'Malley, Benedetto, and Schuler are not resigning.

Limtiaco said that one attorney will be moving closer to his home upon his contract's expiration, while the other two will be fulfilling overseas prosecutorial assignments with the U.S. Department of Justice.

"These attorneys will be on term assignments," she said.

The Saipan branch, she said, will be welcoming three new attorneys.

"We will be introducing them [new prosecutors] shortly. I'm just unable to going into details about them at this point," she said.

Limtiaco said the transition will be occurring anywhere from Oct. 1, 2011, through November 2011.

Limtiaco refused to comment when asked if the turnover has anything to do with assistant U.S. attorney Beverly McCallum's complaint before the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Sources earlier said that McCallum and O'Malley had a "disagreement" in 2007 that ended with McCallum filing a complaint with the EEOC.

Limtiaco stated that these are not abrupt assignments for O'Malley, Benedetto, and Schuler. "In any office there is planning that takes place. These are not overnight or sudden assignments."

Chamorro or Carolinian version of CNMI anthem? Your choice

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) is proposing to allow the Commonwealth anthem to be sung or presented either in the Chamorro version or the Carolinian version, or both, at the beginning of all official government ceremonies in the CNMI.

Currently, both versions are required to be sung or played at the beginning of all official government ceremonies.

Palacios' bill gives the option of playing just one version.

In an interview yesterday, Palacios said the Chamorro and Carolinian versions say and mean the same thing, and people should have the option of playing the two versions or just one version.

"My bill will not change the lyrics, but will only provide people options [on] how to present it," he said.

In his House Bill 17-227, which he will introduce in today's session, Palacios also proposes that the Commonwealth anthem be presented at the beginning of official government ceremonies by voice, "instrumental, audio recording or instrumental" recording.

"The Legislature concurs that whether the Commonwealth anthem is sung in Chamorro or Carolinian, the significance will remain unchanged in the hearts of our people," the bill's findings say.

Palacios' bill seeks to amend 1 CMC 234. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Result of PSS probe on Alpino's case out today

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The result of the investigation conducted by the Public School System in the case of Katelyn Alpino, the Rota High School valedictorian who was denied an honors scholarship due to a low grade point average, will be out today.

Acting education commissioner Tim Thornburgh told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the student's parents are expected to receive today a letter from his office disclosing the findings of its probe.

Thornburgh refused to disclose the investigation's results but said that PSS had "zero findings" about possible errors in sending Katelyn Alpino's data to the CNMI Scholarship Office. He refused to elaborate, saying the information will be shared first with Alpino's father who filed a grievance with the Commissioner's Office last week.

Alpino's scholarship application with the CNMI Scholarship Office was denied due to non-compliance with the GPA requirement. This came as a big shock to Alpino and her family as she had graduated class valedictorian in June. They were also informed by the Scholarship Office that Alpino's two other classmates—the class salutatorian and the third honor student—were chosen for the scholarships as both had higher GPAs than Alpino.

Yesterday, Rota legislative delegation chair Sen. Juan Ayuyu wrote Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, asking her to shed light on the issue.

The senator described as "unnerving" the revelation that the valedictorian, who is the highest academic awardee in the school system, can get a GPA that is lower than other students, such as in Alpino's case.

"Please enlighten me as to how Ms. Alpino was awarded class valedictorian for Rota High School this past June, but yet scored the lowest GPA according to the CNMI Scholarship Office that eliminated her from being one of the two possible recipients. I hope your office can shed light on this unnerving issue within a week from today," the senator told Sablan in his letter yesterday.

Thornburgh said that he has yet to see Ayuyu's letter but assured that the matter will be resolved soon.

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NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH
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PRESENTS
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A TIME TO PREPARE.
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30th Anniversary DYS

AUGUST 13, 2011
GARAPAN COMMUNITY CENTER

We want to thank and acknowledge all the people that donated and participated in the 30th anniversary celebration of the Division of Youth Services. We also want to thank and acknowledge our facilitators, volunteers, youth nominees, entertainers, businesses, and groups that helped DYS commemorate this special event.

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Deferment of SHEFA student loans proposed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Just weeks after announcing plans to run after default scholars, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance officials are now singing a different tune and are thinking of allowing students to put off paying for their loans until they are capable of doing so.

This was the theme of the SHEFA board's discussion on Monday, citing the economic contraction and the difficulty of finding jobs as the main reason for the change of heart.

Board chair Jose Mafnas instructed program administrator Henry Hofschneider to come up with a recommendation at their next meeting as to how long the loan deferment could be made for affected scholars.

The board is looking at providing a one-year loan deferment, a period that Hofschneider believes may be too long. He prefers recommending a less than 60-day deferment of student loans and on a case-to-case basis.

Hofschneider

SHEFA regulations require scholars who have already graduated to return to the islands within 90 days to work either in government or the public sector for an equal amount of time that they received financial assistance from the program. Failure to return and fulfill this requirement will result in the automatic conversion of their grants into loans that must be repaid to the government.

This rule, however, has been rarely followed. Since the program's inception in 2004, only a few graduates have returned to the islands while a large number have chosen to stay and work in the U.S. mainland.

During Monday's board meeting, Hofschneider reported that four newly graduated scholars have recently asked for a deferment on their payments until they come up with a final decision.

He said that SHEFA stands to collect about $55,000 from two of these four scholars, representing three to four years of getting grants from the program.

"If the board will approve the payment deferment, I would recommend to adopt not more than a six-month period because I understand the competitive situation in finding a job," he told reporters.

The government has already invested some $17.7 million in the SHEFA programs since its inception six years ago. From May 2006 through December 2010, however, SHEFA collected just about $13,577 from default scholars.

Hofschneider admitted that SHEFA has no records of these default scholars and will start working on them next month.

Childhood Obesity Awareness Event
Get Out and Play!
Inviting All Children Ages 4-10 and their Parents!
LET'S MOVE CNMI
VENUE
Hopwood Jr. High School
DATE
Saturday, September 24th
TIME
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Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 21, 2000

Woodruff's role as CUC legal counsel questioned
Dismayed by lack of legal advice on pending legislation, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez yesterday questioned the absence of legal counsel Steve Woodruff whom he said is off-island to assist the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He said there may be conflict with the two hats worn by Mr. Woodruff as legal counsel to both the Senate and CUC, noting he can not meet the demands of the two jobs. "It looks like there is a conflict of interest. Who is the Senate legal counsel? Is he representing the Senate or CUC," he told reporters in an interview. "We have to address that."

CDA adjusts approved home loan target
The Commonwealth Development Authority has adjusted its target to seal at least 1,000 home loan agreement by the end of the year to 2001 due to slowdown in lending activities by private financing institutions. Board Chair John S. Tenorio said there remains a strong demand for home financing but private banks have taken a conservative approach on long-term loans primarily because of Article 12 restrictions. However, Mr. Tenorio pointed out that CDA was able to encourage some of the banking institutions operating in the Northern Marianas to earmark a portion of their portfolio for long-term housing loans to meet the demand.

Sept. 21, 2001

Government urged to tap Northern Islands' resources
Mayor Joseph T. Ogumoro yesterday urged the Legislature to tap potential business activities available in the Northern Islands to help the Northern Marianas prevent deeper economic crisis. Ogumoro said that passage of three critical legislation now pending at the Legislature will enable the CNMI to capitalize on the potential commercial fisheries, agriculture, land mineral mining, and other related resources available in the Northern Islands. "It is clear that the CNMI has not invested much time nor resources into tapping the huge market for eco-tourism and other nature-based resorts and activities," said Ogumoro in a letter to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial and Senate President Paul Manglona.

Sept. 21, 2002

NMI promotes family health, fitness
September 28-the last Saturday for this month-will be a day for the family and for fitness, as the entire United States, including territories such as the CNMI, celebrate Family Health & Fitness Day. In line with this, Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed yesterday morning the proclamation that signals the Commonwealth's participation in this national activity. As explained by the organizing group, Heart of the Marianas, the event's purpose is to promote family involvement in physical activity-one of the goals of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health.

Sept. 21, 2003

Bioterrorism preparedness plan offered
House Vice Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio has put forward a comprehensive proposal envisioned to prepare the Commonwealth in times of emergency health threats, including bio-terrorism. The proposal, dubbed the CNMI Emergency Health Powers Act of 2003 or House Bill 13-325, stresses the need to institute extraordinary government powers and functions in order to rapidly and effectively respond to potential or actual public health emergencies. The 12-page legislation, introduced during a session Friday, proposes the development of an elaborate plan to establish a well-synchronized response in times of public health emergencies.

Compensation sought for 16 PSS employees
The House of Representatives adopted a joint resolution Friday requesting the Public School System to set aside $130,000 to compensate some 16 employees who reportedly failed to receive the 14-percent pay increase pursuant to Public Law 7-31. Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao led House members in pushing for the salary increase, which, he said, applied to all CNMI autonomous agencies, including PSS. House Joint Resolution 13-35, which unanimously passed the House during a session, indicated that the Commonwealth Compensation Adjustment and Salary Act of 1991 mandated a 14 percent across the board pay increase over the salary schedule contained in PL 6-23 for all CNMI government employees.

2nd suspect in Tinian rape case found guilty

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman handed down yesterday a guilty verdict against one of two men accused of kidnapping and raping a woman at the Tinian cemetery.

Wiseman determined that the government was able to provide enough evidence to convict 21-year-old Joseph Ray Arriola Jr. for sexual assault in the third degree.

The crime carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Arriola will be sentenced on Nov. 10, 2011.Wiseman allowed Arriola to remain free on bail until his sentencing.

Wiseman conducted the bench trial on Monday on Tinian. Last week, the judge granted the Office of the Attorney General's motion to dismiss the charges of kidnapping and first degree sexual assault against Arriola.

Kidnapping has a maximum sentence of life in prison, while first degree sexual assault carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in jail with a mandatory sentence of eight years.

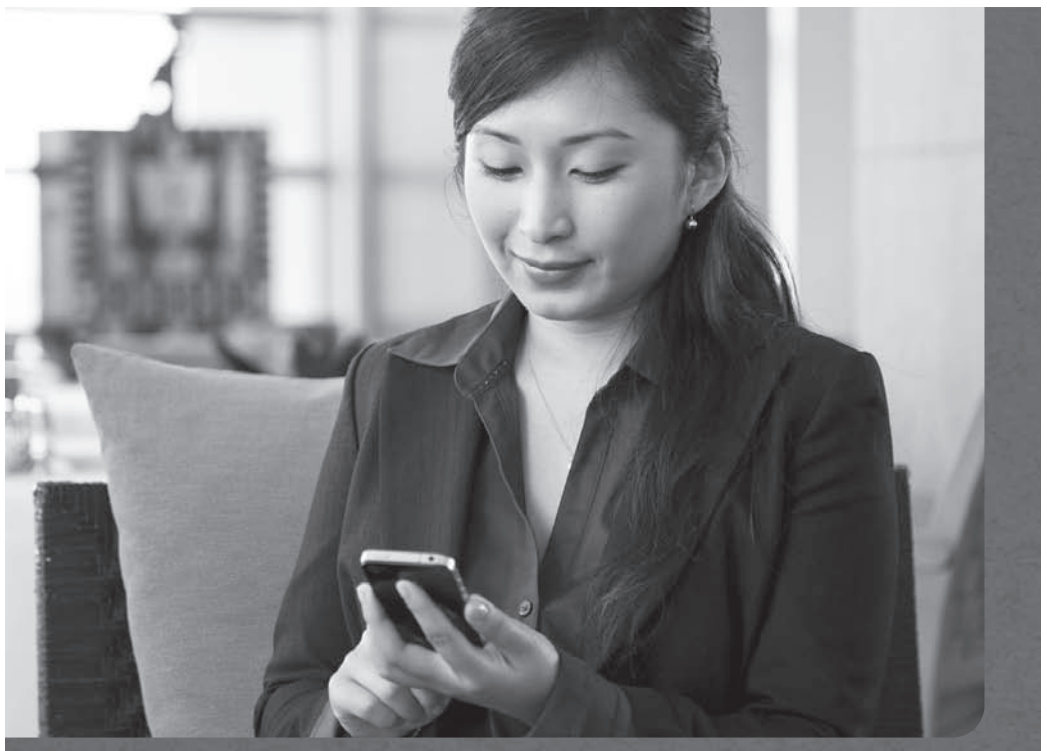
Assistant attorney general Russell H. Lorfing, who prosecuted the case, filed an amended information last week to charge Arriola with only one count of sexual assault in the third degree.

Arriola's counsel, Joseph Norita Camacho, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he will be meeting with his client to discuss his sentencing. Camacho said they thank the judge for his time and consideration.

"Though Mr. Arriola did not get a favorable verdict, he was able to exercise his right to a trial," Camacho said.

In December 2010, a Tinian Superior Court jury found Arriola's co-defendant, Kurt B. King, not guilty of kidnapping and rape.

The victim alleged that she and her friends had been drinking at a club when King grabbed her and, together with Arriola, brought her to the cemetery where they raped her. The defendants denied the charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 224

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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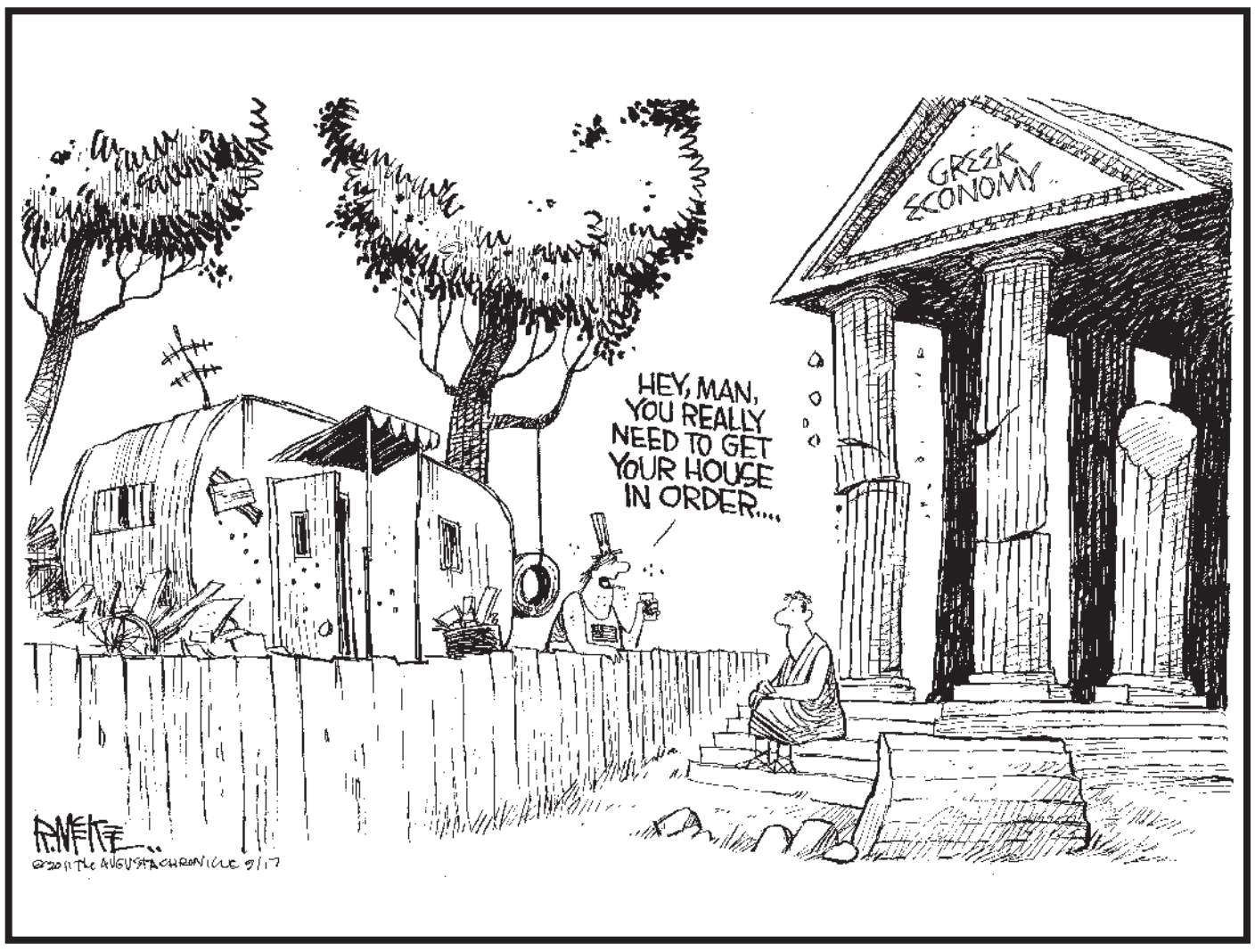


By ALFRED LUBRANO
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Alfred Lubrano is a staff writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may send him email at alubrano@phillynews.com.*

Activist's harsh words make waves

The poor are not so bad off.

Many have DVD players, air conditioners, cellphones, refrigerators and cable television. Hunger and homelessness afflict relatively few.

So says Robert Rector, a well-known conservative writer/activist and tea-party darling.

He contends that media outlets mislead Americans into thinking the poor are desperate when, in fact, most people below the federal poverty level—$22,050 a year for a family of four—live relatively comfortable lives.

Countering Rector's claims, experts who study poverty call his work "pseudo-social science" and accuse him of twisting facts to promulgate a right-wing agenda.

Regardless of how he's perceived, Rector is known for having the ear of U.S. policymakers.

For 20 years, Rector, 60, a research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, has huddled with Republicans in Congress to devise plans to limit benefits for the poor.

Many credit his analysis of American poverty for helping to alter the welfare system in 1996, when it morphed from an entitlement program to one that requires recipients to get jobs or training.

"What Grover Norquist is to income taxes, Rector is to poverty programs," said Sheldon Danziger, director of the National Poverty Center at the University of Michigan. Norquist is the antitax advocate who claims 236 U.S. House members and 41 senators as signatories to his famous no-tax-increase pledge.

"Rector is very, very influential with House Republicans and has been for years," Danziger said.

Rector's latest report for the Heritage Foundation—centered on air conditioners and other "amenities" among the poor—was released in July and has been widely disseminated in newspapers around America.

Conservative radio and television personalities, including Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly, often cite Rector's work.

"It is really extraordinary to think about these conveniences that are enjoyed by these people," O'Reilly recently said in reference to Rector's statement that 78 percent of poor families have air-conditioning and 64 percent have cable or satellite TV.

That's echoed by conservative activists and bloggers such as Jennifer Stefano, co-chair of the Loyal Opposition of PA, a tea-party group in the Philadelphia suburbs.

"If you can afford a microwave and cable TV, I don't see how the government can call you poor," Stefano said. "The idea of poverty is not what most Americans think it is."

In an interview, Rector said that while the federal government says 40 million Americans are poor, he wants to "put to rest the myth that the poor all live in shacks whose foundations are collapsing."

"The average American is quite shocked to hear about all that the poor actually have," Rector said. "But there's this constant clamor that we have all these hungry and undernourished people. That hasn't been true for 30 years."

See ACTIVIST'S on Next Page

The NMI a decade later

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

On the wall was a poster inscribed, "We make our tomorrows by what we dream of today." Perhaps my daughter left it there to remind good old dad that there's still a window of opportunity to rebuild our tomorrows even in the worst of economic times. Yes, I'm a believer that "hope springs eternal" and that even in bad times, there's room to maneuver though a dollar short and a day late.

Investments: Major foreign investment in this pearly archipelago is basically history. If investment ever returns then it would be woefully small and passive. The last two proposals for hotels in the northern part of Saipan has just sizzled, if not, fizzled, a tale of the global economic recession that torches even small venues like the NMI. It's time to trump our cards in order to clearly see why we must define our future with critical lenses.

In view of this condition, largely triggered by the prohibitive cost of fossil fuel, the NMI is hit viciously as the airline industry did restructuring, eliminating non-profitable routes that includes these isles. We ponder the imponderable amidst the usual notion that the airline industry must be an organ of the local government. It is not and it is simply, like other business ventures, a business that finds its livelihood in profits.

The prohibitively high cost and regressive effects of utilities will continue battering the lifeblood of this archipelago—business community—costly fuel sending it closer to sputtering to death than revival. It isn't an easy beast to domesticate but herein rest our reliance on leadership to do something about it. And in the midst of sending every family to the sea of abject poverty, the least you could do is rebuild our tomorrows not with the usual attitude of inconsequence and insensitivity but with real dreams and conviction we could all share.

Manufacturing: To answer this issue is to resolve the grinding and economically fatal effects of the imposition or federally mandated minimum wage. This effect, damaging all the way around, is inconsequential for proponents in Washington. Here it's the lifeblood of our economic engine.

On the flip side, we too were negligent in instituting a decent wage system. I mean, for years I saw classified ads for engineers at $3.50 an hour requiring graduates be products of an accredited U.S. engineering school. Kidding me?

For years too, we've suppressed giving the trades and technical jobs decent salaries and wages to keep the cost of housing down. Good thinking, but why embrace another policy completely the opposite of the previous policy? Need we consistently hammer our toes with a sledgehammer before we find out they are contradictory and counterproductive? *Halo*? Anybody home, *lai*?

A lot remains to be done to critically and soberly address policies involving the trades. No wonder everybody wants to be governor. Hold on folks, let's do reality check on this score for once in our lifetime. This and other relevant issues and agencies' roles must be brought together under a single page so we all trump our cards simultaneously. Otherwise, our economy is dead fish in the water!

Let's plan FOR the future

The NMI must humbly return to the drawing board to begin drafting its socio-economic plans with a set of goals and objectives. You have to have a guideline to **Plan For** the future of the islands. It's a better paradigm over **"Plan By"** where ad hoc undertakings are dictated haphazardly by eventualities. Definitely, it's the consequence of disorientation fast-forwarding our demise into nihilism!

Indeed, our neighbor to the south has had her share of bad setbacks prompted by the global recession. But it has a plan to review and refine amidst the quick shifts in paradigms to save economies of scale, including developing economies. This is the comparative advantage it has over the NMI. Guam has seriously shifted markets from Japan to China and elsewhere. We're still pondering the deafening effects of airline shortage to prop up the tourism industry.

Redundancy of Commission

Some 33 years ago was established the Commission on Federal Laws comprised of members from both the NMI and federal government. Its purported purpose was to review refinement of the agreement every 10 years, including applicability of federal laws.

Somehow the commission fizzled out and has never been revived since. Perhaps this is the appropriate time to revive it by asking the feds to step in. It is vital that we do so by promoting synergistic working relationships on issues of mutual interest.

The purpose and tenor of the proposed commission is out of place. I say irrelevant in that there's the obvious need for the NMI to critically review its performance in the institution and strengthening of self-government over the last three decades. It's good to begin by knowing our rate of success or failure on this score.

It's useless to do it for purposes of grandstanding rehashing old and tired arguments about neo-colonialism and paternalism. It's best that we seek revival of the Commission on Federal Laws with the view to fostering synergistic working relationship with our benefactors in Washington to rebuild the local economy. Let's see our performance rating that includes the now imperiled Retirement Fund. Good start?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A tale of the future, in 3 to 4 years or around 2015 if not before

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

It was one of those cool evenings on Saipan that was unremarkable in its similarity with thousands of others. A flaming sunset over the Philippine Sea, its golden rays reflected on a smooth azure lagoon surface where rippling waves were brushed by a cool breeze rolling down from a brooding Mt. Tapotchau.

The island's high point beneath a thin veil of cloud wisps was largely unnoticed by those mesmerized by the setting sun, waiting to glimpse the "green flash."

The island was quite at this time of evening as Jose sat on a weather-beaten bench at seaside and thought about his life and the future of his family.

He and many of his friends had spent their productive years employed by Public Works until their retirement and the promise of financial security in their remaining years. As he reminisced within the peacefulness of the evening, the breeze at his back made it difficult to concentrate as his eyelids slowly closed as he remembered better days.

From somewhere through the mist of memories he distantly recalled the old wooden cart being pulled by a huge, lumbering bull along a quiet, potholed Middle Road on its way to a ranch in Papago and also one of his parents' stories about picking up lumps of coal along the narrow gauge track of the Japanese Sugar Train, later to be used to cook rice for the family dinner.

It was all long ago of a period swept away on the waves of time.

"Strange", he thought, *"that these unrelated thoughts would return to him on this evening of worry and deep concern as to how he was going to make it now that he no longer had a pension."*

Suddenly he was shocked back to the reality of the day—something happened to that dream—it was all wrong, there was no longer a retirement pension and he wondered how he was going to manage without money.

He remembered first hearing about the problems with the Retirement Fund six years ago starting around 2009 and the endless squabbling between attorneys that didn't seem to resolve the problem, certainly not by 2011 at the time of the three-year warning death knell of the Fund. He heard his friends criticize the slow, unproductive process as they discussed how the administration, the courts and the Legislature tried unsuccessfully to solve the problems with the Fund but only resulted in delay after delay, week in and week out, month after month, with nothing done except to rapidly diminish the money available to meet retirees' pensions until—one day a year ago—it was all gone.

Now there is no pension check and no promise of one. Even the Retirement Fund Building was empty and for sale.

The retirees' problem, which had festered since early 2000, had solved itself as the fund was now totally exhausted and the administration, the court, and the Legislature no longer had reason to argue over a solution as the resources of the fund—his money, along with that of his retired friends—dried up from inaction on the part of the government and their elected leaders, particularly those members of the 17th Legislature as well as the many lawmakers before them and the governors of several past administrations.

"What were they thinking?" he wondered. *"Didn't they care about us?"*

His mind reeled with thoughts as to how he was going to get by. He would have to depend on food stamps, his small garden, and fish from the sea. But now fishing was no longer a recreation—it was essential for food as it was in the past to sustain his parents and grandparents and theirs before them.

No more imported food for the family table from island merchants—it was too expensive.

He recalled the huge schools of *atulai* that would enter the lagoon at certain times of the year and be scooped up in large nets, brought to shore and divided among waiting families. But now these fish were not so numerous any more—not like the old days.

Without money, he had long ago reduced his use of CUC power to only the bare minimum as evidenced by the small, low-watt light bulb that burned only a short time each evening—power was so costly it had become almost unaffordable. Air conditioning, which was once enjoyed on hot, humid nights, was a thing only remembered. For many retirees it was even difficult to pay for cable television. So many had canceled their subscription the cable company had to increase its subscription charges to make up for income lost as a result of fewer viewers.

Many families had to "double up" just to get by.

His friend, who was also retired, had financed a pickup from the bank but was unable to make his payments and the bank repossessed the vehicle and sold it to someone else for the balance due. The bank didn't want the truck as it already had too many as a result of others who were unable to make their payments.

Still another boyhood friend had passed away unexpectedly and his family was without insurance to meet a person's final expenses as the premiums had not been paid and the policy had lapsed. All the years of deductions for insurance from his paycheck were lost.

Jose could sympathize with this dilemma as he had recently learned his government group medical insurance coverage had been canceled for non-payment and now he was too old to purchase a policy at rates he could afford because of a preexisting, uninsurable, medical condition. He was diabetic.

He had no choice but to rely upon the limited capacity of CHC, which was OK for minor medical maintenance but was another matter for complicated issues requiring specialized treatment.

All these things raced through Jose's mind as he, like many of his retired friends, had avoided facing them in the past.

"All the elements of paradise are here," he thought as he gazed out upon the lagoon and considered his situation, *"but not the full pleasure of savoring the beauty when you are retired on the islands without money in an economy with limited employment opportunities."*

"It could have all been different but we retirees and our families failed to take collective action to save our retirement."

"Instead many of us left it to others with no personal stake in the outcome to represent their interest. A very big mistake—but now it was too late."

Jose wondered, *"What did we expect?"*

"That some one else would protect our interest?"

"We were wrong."

Night was fast coming and soon Jose would feel the cool of the evening as stars appeared overhead like diamonds on black velvet and a Rachmaninoff moon shredded the mist and pierced the clouds as the full white orb rose over Mount Tapotchau.

It was beautiful as the early evening came to a close and Jose struggled to get up to go home and leave it all behind to return to face his family.

"Why is it", he thought, *"that the island has produced so few leaders capable of solving our problems?"*

"I don't see or hear that the same indifference prevails on Guam as it is in the NMI."

"What's the difference between the two Chamorro societies?"

"Are we in the Northern Marianas crippled by the differences in the history between the two island groups where we continually see our inflexible relationship with the U.S. bound and forever restricted by a 35-year-old Covenant and used it a weapon—a sort of threat every time there was some perceived difference of opinion, real or imagined, with U.S. policy?"

As night fell and the traffic thinned on the road to Jose's house he thought, *"My God, why don't they just thank the taxpaying U.S. citizens, instead of bitching, suing and hand wringing over how only a few islanders allege mistreatment and misunderstanding by those indifferent, uncaring "mean-ol' Feds."*

" Laña, give me a break. Reminds me of an adolescent rejected by his first love."

"After the many hundreds of millions of dollars provided by the United States to raise our standard of living why are we not more vocal in our appreciation? Instead, we have legislators who every few years want to reexamine our continuing relationship with America. A couple of them even advocating independence and several have publicly stated they don't want to be an American citizen."

"It's their choice—all they have to do is surrender their passport and tell their neighbors to live without food stamps, Head Start, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid, postal services, typhoon relief, educational assistance, and most everything else from the outside you can think of that can't and hasn't been provided by our local government."

"As I look at the deteriorated condition resulting from the government's handing of the San Roque Shopping Mall, I can only guess at what the island would look like if they had their way."

"This is the bunch who can't provide reasonably priced, reliable power islandwide; 24-hour potable water; or establish the conditions to stimulate our economy."

"And they want to reexamine our relationship with the United States?"

"What's their problem?"

"Are these people truly looking out for my best interest? I don't think so."

As Jose made his way home he left behind the view of the lagoon's fringing reefs, the white froth of breaking waves, the azure waters, the smell of salt spray, and the sound of rattling palm fronds in a quiet breeze all as much as one of earth's jewels as any emerald.

"The government has had a hard time protecting and enhancing even these natural God-given treasures," he thought.

"We would be wise to exercise more care who we elect. A disgruntled lawmaker can make a lot more than laws. He or she can make a lot of trouble and negatively impact our lives by dabbling in issues they know nothing about. Of which one in particular being ruining the business climate for foreign investors."

"This is the 21st century and some of those guys seem to want to push us back 40 years to the days of the Trust Territory period."

"Don't they know the Cold War is over and we don't have the strategic appeal we once had for the U.S.?"

"Super carriers have replaced us."

"We shouldn't make to much of an issue over molehills or we may be left alone to fend for ourselves on the top of an extinct volcano in the western Pacific."

"The Japanese have an expression: 'If a nail sticks up, pound it down.'"

"If we continue to draw attention to ourselves through lawsuits against the federal government and complaints of dissatisfaction, it may just happen that we will get 'nailed down' particularly if the average American taxpayer ever learns we were permitted to keep our taxes through the rebate while we were getting theirs."

ACTIVIST'S

From Page 10

Rector said he did not want to eliminate social programs such as food stamps and welfare. But he said the government was spending too much on people who have become dependent on federal largesse and should be "encouraged to work more."

Rector said he based his findings on federally collected data about U.S. households.

Not everyone is impressed with Rector's research.

"To me, this is just a joke," said Mark Rank, professor of social welfare at Washington University in St. Louis. "The basic point that people in poverty are really well off is crazy. It's pseudo-social science."

Rank said 43 percent of U.S. households below the poverty line experienced food insecurity—having too little money at times during a year to buy food. But among households at 185 percent of poverty or higher, the rate of food insecurity is just 2.7 percent.

"There's a huge difference in life above and below the poverty line," Rank said.

Sister Marge Clark, a lobbyist with Network, a Catholic social-justice group in Washington, agreed, adding that air-conditioning is no longer a luxury in America—it keeps people alive. Many parents use cable TV as a substitute for baby-sitting that they cannot afford, or as a way to keep children inside in unsafe neighborhoods, she said.

Besides, said Timothy Smeeding, director of the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin, air conditioners can cost less than $100 and DVD players can be had for about $25.

And because so many people fall into and out of poverty, these appliances could have been purchased before a person who had been working was laid off, Smeeding said.

Smeeding denigrated Rector's methodology, saying Rector "decides what conclusion to make, then finds evidence to support it."

Ultimately, measuring poverty by appliances owned is incomplete research, said Ralph da Costa Nunez, president of the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness in New York.

"I'm no liberal, but I know that poverty is a struggle that's about a lot of things: poor education, domestic violence, poor food, and other societal ills," he said.

And, he added, Rector's work does not take into account a growing trend in a country beset by a dismal economy: poverty nomads. They are families that double- and triple-up with relatives to survive—about six million Americans at last count.

Aware of his many critics, Rector said that "the basic things I say are true."

And, he added, "I never said abolish programs to help the poor. I may not be as fearsome as people say."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼75°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

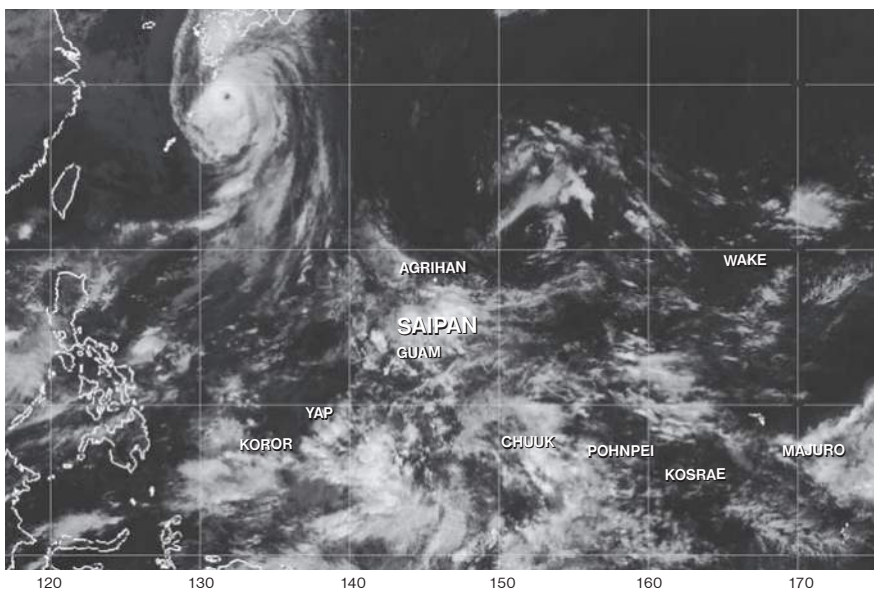
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲81	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲80	▼54
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲89	▼79
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲86	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼80
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼53
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Showers	▲71	▼63
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼70
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼53
Pusan	Windy	▲75	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼54
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼56
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼73
Washington, DC	Showers	▲76	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with Typhoon Roke (18W) well northeast of Okinawa are found northwest of a line from 21N130E to 22N135E. A surface trough just west of the Marianas is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marianas between 12N and 18N from 141E to 149E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers near Koror west of a line from 9N133E to 4N136E. A tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from near Yap to just west of Pohnpei south of a line from 10N138E to 10N154E to 4N160E. A trade-wind surge north of Kosrae is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 12N159E to 8N165E. A trade-wind trough over the Marshall Islands is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Majuro east of a line from 9N173E to 7N168E to 3N172E. An upper-level low centered just southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 21N152E is triggering scattered showers and thunderstorms over Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 22N152E to 22N156E. Another upper low centered northeast of Wake Island at 22N171E is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles of 22N171E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
3:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		1:02 PM
Thursday	12:38 AM	1:51 PM
Friday	1:34 AM	2:40 PM
Saturday	2:32 AM	3:27 PM
Sunday	3:30 AM	4:13 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5	5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

USCIS REMINDS APPLICANTS FROM ROTA, TINIAN

‘Biometrics are taken at USCIS interview appointment itself’

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reminds applicants for immigration benefits in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who live on Rota or Tinian that appointments for biometrics and interviews have been combined into one. USCIS did this to minimize the expense people face in traveling to Saipan twice for separate biometrics appointment and interview.

If an applicant in Rota or Tinian who is awaiting an interview receives a notice of a biometrics appointment, he or she can ignore that notice and have the fingerprints and photograph taken the day of the interview.

For more information about immigration benefits or to check the status of your application, visit www.uscis.gov/cnmi; contact USCIS Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283; or make an appointment at www.uscis.gov to visit the USCIS office at TSL Plaza on Saipan. ***(USCIS)***

USCIS IMMIGRATION TRAINING SESSIONS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will be holding a series of public sessions in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from Sept. 20 through Sept. 29.

USCIS officials will be on hand to provide an overview of the newly published CW Transitional Worker Final Rule and other immigration classifications available under the Immigration and Nationality Act. It will also be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of USCIS subject matter experts.

PUBLIC SESSIONS

The following training sessions will each last about two hours. They are free and open to the public.

SAIPAN

- **Wednesday, Sept 21** (5pm - 7pm) American Memorial Park Indoor Auditorium, Garapan
- **Thursday, Sept 22** (5pm - 8pm) Information table at Thursday Night Market, Garapan
- **Friday, Sept 23** (6pm - 8pm) American Memorial Park Outdoor Auditorium, Garapan
- **Saturday, Sept 24** (10am – noon) Multipurpose Center, Susupe
- **Monday, Sept 26** (5pm - 7pm) American Memorial Park Indoor Auditorium, Garapan
- **Tuesday, Sept 27** (2pm - 4pm) American Memorial Park Indoor Auditorium, Garapan
- **Wednesday, Sept 28** (9am - 11am) American Memorial Park Indoor Auditorium, Garapan
- **Wednesday, Sept 28** (6pm - 8pm) Multipurpose Center, Susupe
- **Thursday, Sept 29** (5pm - 8pm) Information table at Thursday Night Market, Garapan

ROTA

- **Monday, Sept 26** (6pm - 8pm) Rota Roundhouse

TINIAN

- **Tuesday, Sept 27** (6pm - 8pm) Dynasty Hotel and Casino - Dynasty Ballroom

EMPLOYER SESSIONS

The team will also conduct 2 sessions open to all employers:

- Saipan – American Memorial Park Indoor Auditorium, Garapan

Tuesday, Sept 20 / 2pm - 4pm / Session for employers only

- Rota – Mayor’s Conference Room

Monday, Sept 26 / 2pm - 4pm / Session for Employers only

The outreach team will also meet with many groups in the CNMI that have requested sessions. For those unable to attend a training session, materials will be available at the USCIS office in Garapan to explain the new rules. You can also visit the USCIS website for the latest news and information at www.uscis.gov/cnmi and www.uscis.gov/cw. ***(DHS)***

Tinian man gets 6 months for ‘ice’ possession

A man tagged by authorities as a supplier of methamphetamine or “ice” on Tinian has pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal that would require him to serve six months in prison.

Mike Evangelista, 54, pleaded guilty to a count of illegal possession of controlled substance. As part of the plea bargain, the court dismissed one count of trafficking of controlled substance.

Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman sentenced Evangelista to six months in prison, to be served without parole. He will begin serving his sentence on Nov. 3, 2011. He was also required to pay a $500 fine.

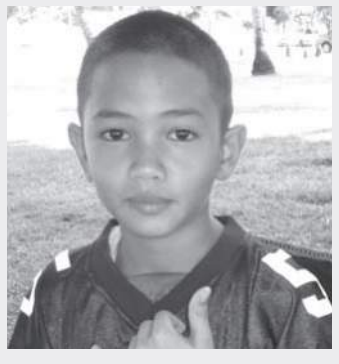
After completing his prison term, Evangelista will be placed on probation for one year.

Using a cooperating source, the CNMI’s joint Drug Enforcement Task Force managed to buy $50 worth of “ice” from Evangelista on March 25, 2010, at his residence in San Jose, Tinian. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated birthday wishes go out to Abner Trovela, second from left, who celebrated his 41st birthday on Monday, Sept. 19. With love from your family and friends!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the Hamilton TRIOS: Brittney Nia Hamilton, Juan “Jun-boy” Ada II and Christian Sterling Hamilton, who are all celebrating their birthdays today, Sept. 21, 2011. Wishing you all a blessed and wonderful day. We love you! Greetings coming out from the ENTIRE family.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 501521, Navy Hill – Bldg. N2, Saipan, MP
“Together We Can Build a Future”

PUBLIC NOTICE
ARRONGORONG NOTISIA

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation will be closed on 9/22-23/11, Thursday & Friday for its staff’s Professional Development/Wellness & Rehabilitation. Please contact 670-287-6538 or nmidir@ovrgov.net to leave a message. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you to all those who helped make the

2011 Chinese Culture Night a success!

Chinese Association of Saipan, the staff and students of the Chinese Educational Center, PDM Promoters, Ms. Kamata, Mr. Sawada, Roy and Ruth Sablan, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Health, the staff of Realty Management Services, Grand Hotel, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Power 99, KWAW 100.3, KZMI 103.9, KKMP 92.1 and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Thank you to all the fine performers, and especially to the people who were in attendance at this premiere event!

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, September 23, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the ARFF Classroom, First floor of the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center, at the Saipan International Airport.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 12, 2011)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Rota Runway Shoulder Change Order 6
2. Saipan International Airport Generator Change Order 6
3. Saipan International Airport High Roof Drainage Project Bid Cancellation
4. Supplemental Budget Request: Professional Services Contract (Legal)
5. Approval of Insurance Specifications
6. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Office Renovation Change Order 2
7. Supplemental Budget Request: TSA Office Renovation

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors
September 16, 2011

Business

Tax the wealthy, Obama says; it's class warfare, accuses GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Drawing clear battle lines for next year's elections, a combative President Barack Obama on Monday demanded that the richest Americans pay higher taxes to help cut soaring U.S. deficits by more than $3 trillion. He promised to veto any effort by congressional Republicans to cut Medicare benefits for the elderly without raising taxes as well.

"This is not class warfare. It's math," Obama declared, anticipating Republican criticism, which was quick in coming.

"Class warfare isn't leadership," House Speaker John Boehner said, in Cincinnati.

Obama's speech marked a new, confrontational stance toward Republicans after months of cooperation that many Democrats complained produced too many concessions. While the plan stands little chance of passing Congress, its populist pitch is one that the White House believes the public can support.

The president's proposal, which he challenged Congress to approve, would predominantly hit upper-income taxpayers and would also target tax loopholes and subsidies used by many larger corporations. It would spare retirees from any changes in Social Security, and it would direct most of the cuts in Medicare spending to health care providers, not beneficiaries.

Benefit programs wouldn't be unscathed. Obama's plan would reduce spending for those, including Medicare and Medicaid, by $580 billion. But with Republicans calling for massive cuts in entitlement programs, Obama said he would veto any legislation that cut Medicare benefits without raising new revenue.

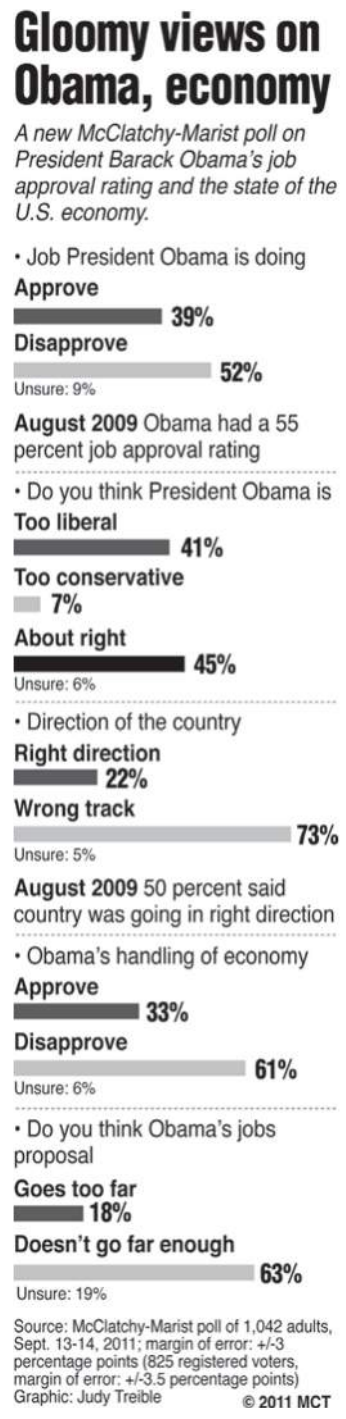
His plan also would count savings of $1 trillion over 10 years from the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The deficit-reduction plan represents Obama's longer-term follow-up to the $447 billion in tax cuts and new public works spending that he has proposed as a short-term measure to stimulate the economy. The new proposal also inserts the president's voice into the legislative discussions of a joint congressional "supercommittee" charged with recommending deficit reductions of up to $1.5 trillion.

Defending his emphasis on new taxes rather than only spending reductions, Obama said: "We can't just cut our way out of this hole."

The Republican reaction was swift and bluntly dismissive.

"Veto threats, a massive tax hike, phantom savings and punting on entitlement reform is not a recipe for economic or job growth-or even meaningful deficit reduction," said Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. "The good news is that the Joint Committee is taking this issue far more seriously than the White House."


Gloomy views on Obama, economy
A new McClatchy-Marist poll on President Barack Obama's job approval rating and the state of the U.S. economy.
• Job President Obama is doing
Approve 39%
Disapprove 52%
Unsure: 9%
August 2009 Obama had a 55 percent job approval rating
• Do you think President Obama is
Too liberal 41%
Too conservative 7%
About right 45%
Unsure: 6%
• Direction of the country
Right direction 22%
Wrong track 73%
Unsure: 5%
August 2009 50 percent said country was going in right direction
• Obama's handling of economy
Approve 33%
Disapprove 61%
Unsure: 6%
• Do you think Obama's jobs proposal
Goes too far 18%
Doesn't go far enough 63%
Unsure: 19%
Source: McClatchy-Marist poll of 1,042 adults, Sept. 13-14, 2011; margin of error: +/-3 percentage points (825 registered voters, margin of error: +/-3.5 percentage points)
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2011 MCT

Obama endorses 5-day mail delivery

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama said Monday the U.S. Postal Service should be allowed to reduce mail delivery to five-days-a-week to help cut its massive losses.

The Postal Service lost $8.5 billion last year and is facing even more red ink this year as the Internet siphons off large amounts of first-class mail and the weak economy reduces advertising mail.

While the post office has cut more than 100,000 workers in the last few years it needs to cut more, close offices and find other ways to reduce costs to keep operating.

In his economic growth and debt reduction plan unveiled Monday, Obama endorsed the idea of dropping one day of mail delivery—it is expected to be Saturday—and urged other changes in postal operations

He agreed that nearly $7 billion the post office has overpaid into the federal retirement system should be refunded to the agency, urged that its payments for advance funding of retiree medical benefits be restructured, and said the post office should be allowed to sell non-postal products and raise postage rates.

Currently the post office cannot raise rates more than the amount of inflation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

S&P downgrades Italy's credit rating a notch

NEW YORK (AP)—Standard & Poor's Ratings Services on Monday downgraded Italy's credit rating by one notch, saying it sees weakening economic growth prospects for the nation and higher-than-expected levels of government debt. The ratings firm cut Italy's long- and short-term sovereign credit ratings to "A/A-1" from "A+/A-1+." The rating is still five steps above junk status. The ratings agency has a negative outlook on Italy's ratings and listed Italy's political issues and heavy debt load as the main factors contributing to the downgrade. It anticipates that political differences will likely limit Italy's ability to respond decisively to its debt crisis.

Netflix says it's sorry, then creates new uproar

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The CEO of Netflix said he was sorry for mishandling a recent price increase that caused customers to cancel the service in droves. But the apology was drowned out by a decision that angered subscribers all over again. The company will split into two services—one with an odd new name that offers the familiar discs in red envelopes and another for online streaming of TV shows and movies. The DVD service will be called Qwikster, a name that is supposed to signify a commitment to fast service but quickly became an object of ridicule Monday on the Internet. The streaming service will keep the Netflix name.

Nation

Study says whooping cough vaccination fades in 3 years

ATLANTA (AP)—The whooping cough vaccine given to babies and toddlers loses much of its effectiveness after just three years—a lot faster than doctors believed—and that could help explain a recent series of outbreaks in the U.S. among children who were fully vaccinated, a study suggests.

The study is small and preliminary, and its authors said the results need to be confirmed through more research. Nevertheless, the findings are likely to stir debate over whether children should get a booster shot earlier than now recommended.

"I was disturbed to find maybe we had a little more confidence in the vaccine than it might deserve," said the lead researcher, Dr. David Witt, chief of infectious disease at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in San Rafael, Calif. Witt presented his findings Monday at the American Society for Microbiology conference in Chicago.

The study was done in California, where whooping cough vaccinations are a hot-button issue. The state had a huge spike in whooping cough cases last year, during which more than 9,100 people fell ill and 10 babies died. California schools have turned away thousands of middle and high school students this fall who haven't gotten their booster shot.

Government health officials recommend that children get vaccinated against whooping cough in five doses, with the first shot at age 2 months and the final one between 4 and 6 years. Then youngsters are supposed to get a booster shot around 11 or 12. That means a gap of five to eight years.

Navy officer, partner wed in Vt. as ban ends

Navy Lt. Gary Ross, right, and Dan Swezy celebrate after exchanging wedding vows on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011 in Duxbury, Vt.
AP

DUXBURY, Vt. (AP)—When Navy Lt. Gary Ross and his partner were searching for a place to get married, they settled on a site in Vermont, in part because the state is in the Eastern time zone.

That way, the two men were able to recite their vows before family and friends at the first possible moment after the formal repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Just after midnight Tuesday, the partners of 11 years were married.

"I think it was a beautiful ceremony. The emotions really hit me...but it's finally official," Ross said early Tuesday.

Hours before the change was to take effect early Tuesday, the American military was also making final preparations for the historic policy shift. The Pentagon announced that it was already accepting applications from openly gay candidates, although officials said they would wait a day before reviewing them.

Ross, 33, and Dan Swezy, a 49-year-old civilian, traveled from their home in Tucson, Ariz., so they could get married in Vermont, the first state to allow gays to enter into civil unions and one of six that have legalized same-sex marriage.

Ross wore his dress uniform for the ceremony beginning at 11:45 p.m. Monday at Duxbury's Moose Meadow Lodge, a log cabin bed-and-breakfast perched on a hillside about 15 miles northwest of Montpelier.

The lodge says it hosted the state's first gay wedding in 2009.

Justice of the Peace Greg Trulson proclaimed the marriage at exactly midnight.

ACROSS THE NATION

CDC: 4 dead in cantaloupe listeria outbreak

WASHINGTON (AP)—Four people have died in an outbreak of listeria traced to Colorado cantaloupes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday. One death occurred in Colorado, one in Oklahoma and two in New Mexico. The death count could soon rise to six. The CDC said that 35 people in 10 states have been sickened in the outbreak so far. The illnesses have been traced to fruit from Jensen Farms in Holly, Colo. The FDA said Monday that it had found listeria in samples of Jensen Farms' cantaloupe taken from a Denver-area store and on samples taken from equipment and cantaloupe at the farm's packing facility.

Ill. man accused in 8 slayings guilty in 1st trial

GALESBURG, Ill. (AP)—Jurors took less than an hour Monday to convict an Illinois man of murder in the death of one of eight people he's accused of bludgeoning to death across two states. Nicholas Sheley, who is accused in a June 2008 killing spree, was found guilty of seven counts of first-degree murder in the death of Ronald Randall, 65, of Galesburg. Sheley also was convicted of aggravated vehicular hijacking and possession of a stolen vehicle. Randall was one of eight people in Illinois and Missouri who died over a long few days in June 2008 at the hands, investigators say, of a killer who bludgeoned his victims into bloody submission.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 025 E 01, containing an area of approximately 12,225 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is L&T Group of Companies, Ltd., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, and Glicerio Arago.

The President of the Corporation is Willie Tan. The Vice President is Jerry Tan. The Treasurer/Secretary is Glicerio Arago.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Glicerio Arago.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of warehousing, moving, loading and unloading and storage of property , and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENSION ATKILON TÅNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi nutisia Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku Siha guini ha nutisia na i intension-ña na para u rekumenda i inekstendin atkilon gi sigienti na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha.

Esti i inekstendin atkilon masuhetu para i inaprueban i Leyislatura gi Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum imfetmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra gi tinahgui na propositu siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Komu sigi mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, gi sigienti pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda para u mapupblika.

i. I atkilon i lugåt madiskribi komu tanu' pupbliku Lot No. 025 E 01, kinonsisti kåsi guaha 12,225 na åria (square meters), putlumenus pat mås, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian esti na lugåt yan i pumalu nai guaha gi Dipattamentun Tånu' Pupbliku ni para u marikunosi.

ii. I manatkikila i L & T Group of Companies, Ltd., i CNMI Corporation. I Direktot i Kuetpu siha gi Corporation si Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, yan si Glicerio Arago.

I Presidentin i Corporation si Willie Tan. I Sigundu Presidenti si Jerry Tan. I Tresureru/Sikritåriu si Glicerio Arago.

iii. I maproponin inekstendin atkilon manigosiu as Siñot Glicerio Arago.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugåt solamienti para i maneran operasion bisnis i warehousing, moving, loading yan unloading yan storage i property, yan aktibidåt siha ni uma'achuli' guihi siha.

I teman esti na kuntråta inekstendin atkilon sa' kinsi (15) åñus.

v. I kopian i kuntråtan i manmaproponi na inekstendin atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, gaigi gi mina'sigundu(2nd) bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat gi Primet(1st) bibienda giya Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu tanu' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sikritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta i tinigi' imfotmasion, opiñon, testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i gai intires na petsona siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sów Ffëérúl Allégh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe ischilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.025 E 01, ebwe yoor seigh me eew sangaras ruwabwughúw reweigh me limoow llapal (12, 225 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge L&T Group of Company, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil asamwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Willie Tan, Jerry Tan, me Glicerio Arago.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Willie Tan. Arúscheyil Samwool nge Jerry Tan.
Treasurer/Secretary nge Glicerio Arago.

iii. School aweweel akkilon yeel nge Mr. Glicerio Arago..

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe sobwey yaal mwóghut ágheli bisinisil sokko, amwatal me atotootiw me sokkol peiragh me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

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i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 010 B 96, containing an area of approximately 909 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 010 B 97, containing an area of approximately 1,072 square meters, more or less, situated in San Roque, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is V & C Enterprises, Inc., a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, and Neda B. Camacho.

The President of the Corporation is Victoria B. Camacho. The Vice Presidents are Cathy C. Villagomez and Claudine B. Camacho. The Treasurer is Michelle C. Macaranas. The Secretary is Neda B. Camacho.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a grocery store, coin operated laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage and facilities directly related to these activities.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in San Roque, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before September 27, 2011 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku guini ha nå'i nutisia ni intensionña para u rekumenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tånu' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Esti na inekstendin atkilon siha manmasuhetu para i inaprueban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas gi sigun ni mamånda ni mapega huyung gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na pattida siha gi halum i pupbliku henerât siña ha na'hålum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tånu' pupbliku. Sigi mås mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimånda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I lugåt atkilon siha madeskribi komu tano' pupbliku Lot No. 010 B 96, kinonsisti årian kåsi guaha 909 square meters, putlumenus mås, yan i Lot No. 010 B 97, kinonsisti i åria ni kåsi guaha 1,072 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi giya San Roque, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaigi na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i V & C Enterprises, Inc., i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpun Direktot siha gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, yan si Neda B. Camacho.

I Presidenti gi Corporation si Victoria B. Camacho. I sigundu Presidenti si Cathy C. Villagomez yan si Claudine B. Camacho. I Tresureria si Michelle C. Macaranas. I Sekritåria si Neda B. Camacho.

iii. I maproponi na ekstension atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñora Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugåt siha uniku para i hinangai i operasion tendan grocery, coin operated laundromat, inistaplesin måkinan poker, setbisiun gasoline/filling station, mini mart, storage yan fasilidåt siha ni mana'achuli' guini na aktibidåt.

I teman i kuntråtan atkilon ha ekstendi gi 15 åñus.

I manmaproponi na åpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durântin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedåt siha.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontråta ekstension atkilon siha siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha, gaigi gi segundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' pupbliku siha giya San Roque, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Septembre 27, 2011 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL EBWE SÓBWEEYLÓ AKKILON-UL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (a) me (b) mellól Public Law 15-2, Bwulasiyool Faluweer Toulap ekke atotoow ammataf igha e tipáli bwe ebwe tingóór extension reel akkilon mereel eghus falúweer toulap mewóól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Lease extension yeel ebwe alúghúlúghló mereel Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas Commonwealth Legislature sángi llól mandate ye e towoow mellól Article XI, § 5(c) mellól Constitution-ul Téél Falúw Kka Efáng Marianas. Reer toulap schóókka eyoor yaar mwuschel rebwe issisilong yaar mwáliili, mángemáng, aweewe me angiingil reel poomw kkaal reel akkilon-ul falúweer toulap. Me Public Law 15-2, e ayoora lamal aweewe kka e fisch ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélo.

i. Akkilon-ul falúw yeel ekke bwáárilo bwe public land Lot No. 010 B 96, emmwel ebwe yoor tiwabwughúw tiwoow (909) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, me ebwe yoor eew Lot No. 010 B 97 sangaras fissigh me ruwoow (1,072) square meters, elapló ngáre eghus, elo San Roque, Seipél. Tiliighil bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyol Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land) bwe aubwe ghuleey fischiy.

ii. Schóól lessee nge V & C Enterprises, Inc, eew CNMI Corporation. Samwoolur Board-ul Corporation yeel nge ikka, Victoria B. Camacho, Cathy C. Villagomez, Claudine B. Camacho, Michelle C. Macaranas, me Neda B. Camacho.

President-il Corporation yeel nge Victoria B. Camacho. Vice President nge Cathy C. Villagomez me Claudine B. Camacho. Treasurer nge Michelle C. Macaranas. Secretary nge Neda B. Camacho.

iii. Schóól aweewel pomwol lease extension yeel nge Mrs. Victoria B. Camacho.

iv. Schóól lessee ebwe sóbweyló yaal yáali bwuley yeel reel mwóghutul ebwe ayoor grocery store, coin operated Laundromat, poker machine establishment, gasoline service/filling station, mini-mart, storage me facilities kka ebwe yáayá reel milikkaal.

Tool abwungubwungul extension yeel nge seigh me limwoow (15) ráágh.

Pomwol annual rental reel tool nge ebwe bweibwogh sángi percentage-il appraised fair market value reel properties.

v. Tiliighil ngáre kopiyal pomwol abwungubwungul ebwe sóbweeyló akkilon yeel emmwel ebwe bweibwogh mellól bwulasiyol Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Land), elo 2nd floor mereel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; Songsong Village, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor mereel Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap(Department of Public Land) esáál bweighbwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye public lands me San Roque, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Secretary of the Department of Public Lands) ebwe bwughil iischil mángemáng, angiingi me ngáre ifa mereel pomwo kkaal sángi schóókka re tipáli, wóól me ngáre mmwal Maan (September) 27, 2011 mereel Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Department of Public Lands offices) kka elo Seipél, Luuta, me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

Asia

Himalaya quake survivors spent night outside in rain

GANGTOK, India (AP)—Thousands of homeless villagers in the Himalayas spent a miserable night outdoors in heavy rains after a powerful earthquake flattened houses and rescuers struggled to reach victims in the mountains of India, Nepal and Tibet.

Rescue workers with helicopters and earth movers ferried supplies and dug through mudslides trying to reach villages cut off by the quake that killed 53 people and damaged more than 100,000 homes.

The weather slowed the relief effort, and many homeless villagers spent Monday night outside.

Three emergency workers were killed in the frantic rescue effort, Indian Home Secretary R.K. Singh said. More than 6,000 army and paramilitary troops were working to clear concrete slabs, bricks and mud to rescue scores of people trapped under houses that collapsed when the 6.9-magnitude quake struck the Himalayan region Sunday evening.

Nine helicopters dropped food to villages, airlifted a medical team, evacuated the injured and conducted damage assessments, Singh said. Heavy construction equipment was used to clear some of the blocked roads, he said.

"The rescue and relief operations are in full swing though they were hampered ... by poor weather," Singh said.

AP

A young Buddhist monk looks on at a monastery damaged by Sunday's earthquake in Gangtok, India, Monday, Sept. 19, 2011.

By midday Monday, workers had managed to clear mudslides from one lane of the main highway leading to the Indian state of Sikkim, where the quake was centered near the Nepal border, Singh said. An initial convoy of 75 paramilitary soldiers started moving toward Mangan, the village closest to the epicenter, but still had not arrived by evening.

At least 32 people died and 100 others were injured in Sikkim, Singh said. At least 10 of them worked for the same hydroelectric project, but it was not immediately clear how they died.

Seven other people were killed in the neighboring Indian states of Bihar and West Bengal, Singh said.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported seven deaths and 24 injuries in Tibet. It said the quake triggered hundreds of landslides that disrupted power and water supplies.

Nepal's government said seven people died there, including two men and a child who were killed when a brick wall toppled outside the British Embassy in the capital, Katmandu. Nearly 70 people were injured, some of them seriously, and were in hospitals across Nepal.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomber targets senior Pakistani policeman; 8 dead

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A Taliban suicide bomber detonated a vehicle packed with explosives Monday outside the home of a senior police officer tasked with cracking down on militants in Pakistan's largest city. The blast killed at least eight people and left a crater 10 feet (3 meters) deep, police said. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the early morning attack in the southern port city of Karachi. The target of the bombing, Chaudhry Aslam, escaped unscathed and said he would not be cowed by the attack. "This is a cowardly act," Aslam told local television. "I'm not scared. I will not spare them."

PH troops kill 3 militants, rescue trader

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Dozens of army troops killed three Abu Sayyaf militants and rescued a kidnap victim Monday in a clash in the southern Philippines, officials said. The rescued businesswoman, Luisa Galvez, an army soldier and at least seven militants were wounded in the gunbattle that raged in a hinterland village near Sumisip town on Basilan island, regional military spokesman Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang said. Three platoons of army scout rangers were searching for gunmen reported by villagers when they stumbled on an undetermined number of Abu Sayyaf militants, setting off a clash that killed three of the gunmen. The other militants fled and troops later found Galvez abandoned at the scene of the battle, Cabangbang said.

Thousands march against nuclear power in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—Chanting "Sayonara nuclear power" and waving banners, tens of thousands of people marched in central Tokyo on Monday to call on Japan's government to abandon atomic energy in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear accident. Police estimated the crowd at 20,000 people, while organizers said there were three times that many people. The disaster—the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl—saw radiation spewed across a wide part of northeastern Japan, forcing the evacuation of some 100,000 people who lived near the plant and raising fears of contamination.

Koreas' talks could spark disarmament progress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A meeting Wednesday of the rival Koreas' nuclear envoys could provide crucial momentum toward restarting disarmament talks, just months after the two countries were threatening to bomb each other into rubble. Relations are still complicated and wariness lingers as the envoys prepare for face-to-face talks in Beijing that aim to build on their surprise meeting in July—which was seen as a small breakthrough after months of acrimony. But there has been a recent flurry of diplomatic and cultural exchanges between the Koreas. South Korea's hard-line government is making public vows of a new flexible approach to Pyongyang, and the North's state media have eased harsh rhetoric aimed at Seoul's leaders.

World

Yemeni protesters attack elite military base; 50 die

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Thousands of protesters backed by military defectors seized a base of the elite Republican Guards on Monday, weakening the control of Yemen's embattled president over this poor, fractured Arab nation. His forces fired on unarmed demonstrators elsewhere in the capital, killing scores, wounding hundreds and sparking international condemnation.

The protesters, joined by soldiers from the renegade 1st Armored Division, stormed the base without firing a single shot, according to witnesses and security officials. Some carried sticks and rocks. They used sandbags to erect barricades to protect their comrades from the possibility of weapons fire from inside the base, but none came and the Republican Guards eventually fled, leaving their weapons behind.

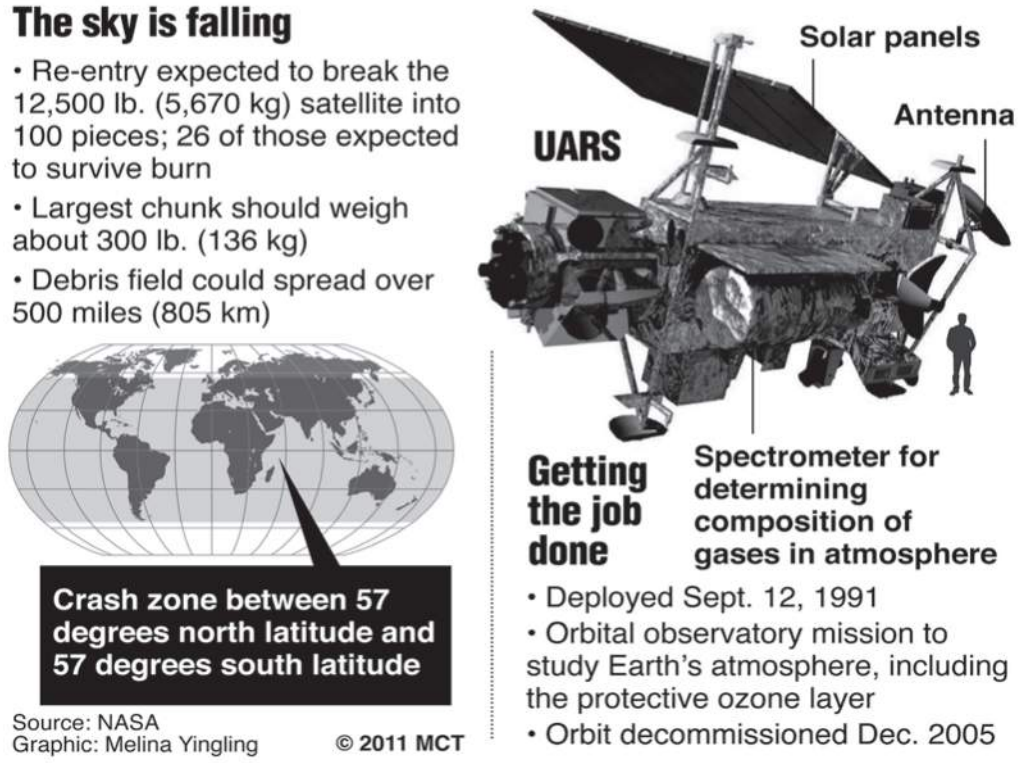
Although the base was not particularly large—the Republican Guards have bigger ones in the capital and elsewhere in Yemen—its capture buoyed the protesters' spirits and signaled what could be the start of the collapse of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's 33-year-old regime.

"It was unbelievable," said protester Ameen Ali Saleh of storming the base on the west side of the major al-Zubairy road, which runs through the heart of Sanaa. "We acted like it was us who had the weapons, not the soldiers."

"Now the remainder of the regime will finally crumble," said another demonstrator, Mohammed al-Wasaby. "Our will is more effective than weapons. The soldiers loyal to Saleh just ran away."

Returning to Earth

NASA's bus-sized satellite, the Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite, is succumbing to gravity. It's expected to enter the Earth's atmosphere and crash to the ground around Sept. 23, plus or minus a day.


The sky is falling
• Re-entry expected to break the 12,500 lb. (5,670 kg) satellite into 100 pieces; 26 of those expected to survive burn
• Largest chunk should weigh about 300 lb. (136 kg)
• Debris field could spread over 500 miles (805 km)
Crash zone between 57 degrees north latitude and 57 degrees south latitude
Source: NASA
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2011 MCT
Solar panels
Antenna
UARS
Getting the job done
Spectrometer for determining composition of gases in atmosphere
• Deployed Sept. 12, 1991
• Orbital observatory mission to study Earth's atmosphere, including the protective ozone layer
• Orbit decommissioned Dec. 2005

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen from Congo kill 36 at pub in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)—Armed men from Congo burst into a pub in the central African nation of Burundi and killed 36 people, an official said Monday. One wounded man said an attacker yelled: "Make sure there's no survivors." Bujumbura province governor Jacques Minani said the attackers targeted the pub in Gatumba, west of Burundi's capital, after crossing the river from Congo. He said 36 people were killed.

4 earthquakes rock Guatemala, 1 confirmed dead

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Four earthquakes struck the southeastern part of Guatemala in less than two hours Monday afternoon, causing at least one death as some walls collapsed, authorities said. At least three people were reported missing. President Alvaro Colom urged calm after the temblors were felt across much of the Central American country, the largest a 5.8 magnitude. All were centered in an area about 30 miles southeast of the capital, Guatemala City, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Palestinians will submit UN membership letter

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The Palestinians brushed aside heated Israeli objections and a promised U.S. veto Monday, vowing to submit a letter formally requesting full U.N. membership when Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addresses the General Assembly. As the Palestinians edged closer to seeking statehood recognition from the United Nations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for Abbas to meet with him in New York. Regardless, Abbas said he had not been swayed by what he called "tremendous pressure" to drop the bid for United Nations recognition.

Libyan fighters take airport near pro-Gadhafi city

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Facing little resistance, revolutionary fighters captured the airport and other parts of a southern desert city that is one of the last remaining strongholds of Moammar Gadhafi's forces Monday, even as military offensives stalled to the north. The capture of Sabha would be a welcome victory for Libya's new rulers, who have struggled to rout forces loyal to Gadhafi a month after sweeping into Tripoli and forcing the ousted leader into hiding. He has not been found.

Focus

Death rate for American children falls

By FRANK GREVE
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—Things are looking up for Dr. Catherine Webb, a pediatric cardiologist at Northwestern University in Chicago. "When I was in training in the `80s, this was a pretty depressing specialty," she said. "But it's not anymore."

True enough. The death rate from heart disease among children is about half what it was in 1980, according to a compendium of federal child-health statistics released last month.

Also down by roughly half are children's death rates from birth defects, cancer, heart disease, pneumonia and flu, as well as injury-related child deaths from motor vehicle accidents, drowning, fires, falls, firearms and suffocation.

Death rates from all causes dropped 53 percent among children ages 1 to 4 and 45 percent among children ages 5 to 14. It adds up to survival for about 8,000 children a year who would've died in 1980.

"It's terrific news," said Harry Rosenberg, retired chief of the Mortality Statistics Branch of the National Center for Health Statistics, which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Better medicine and new safety measures get much of the credit. So does expanded government health-insurance coverage for disadvantaged children, which gives them better access to medical care.

Parents deserve credit, too, said Dr. Frederick Rivara, a professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington in Seattle who specializes in injury reduction. They're drinking and smoking less, for example, which reduces birth defects, fires and car crashes.

"Parents have gotten away from the idea that accidents happen and can't be prevented," Rivara said. "They know that child safety seats save lives and bike helmets prevent head injuries. They believe, as parents, that they can protect their kids. And that's a big change."

Only one leading killer—homicides—hasn't relented significantly.

"They're abuse cases, really," Rivara said.

All racial groups showed similar declines from 1980 to 2004—the latest year reported—but the death rate for black children remained nearly 40 percent higher when compared with those for Hispanics, Asians and non-Hispanic whites.

Also troubling: Most declines flattened by 2000, for unexplained reasons.

Death rates from each leading cause are reported in "America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007," which can be read online at www.childstats.gov. Its tables describe trends for leading killers annually from 1980 through 2004.

Different explanations underlie each decline. Here are some of the key ones:

■ Motor vehicles; deaths down from 7.4 to 3.3 per 100,000 for kids ages 1 to 4; down from 7.5 to 3.7 for kids ages 5 to 14.

Safer cars are a factor, but child safety seats and booster seats are the big difference. Used properly, safety seats cut child fatalities by 71 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Tennessee became the first state to require child safety seats in 1978. By 1985, all states did.

Compliance today is nearly total for infants but falls off with booster seats designed for bigger children. That's one reason the mortality rate for older children has dropped less. In addition, older kids more often are allowed to ride in front seats, which are more dangerous.

The best predictor of children's compliance is drivers who buckle up, and that's risen from 12 percent in 1980 to 81 percent, NHTSA says.

■ Birth defects; deaths down from 8.0 to 3.6 per 100,000 for children ages 1 to 4; down from 1.6 to 1.0 for children ages 5 to 14.

Improved prenatal diagnoses are a big factor, according to Dr. Howard Saal, the director of clinical genetics at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Ultrasound in particular—first offered regularly in the early `80s—helped to identify problem fetuses early enough to arrange for their treatment at specialty centers or, in especially severe cases, to terminate pregnancies. Refinements in surgical technique and advances in caring for critically ill children helped, too, Saal said.

■ Fires and burns; deaths down from 6.1 to 1.5 per 100,000 for children ages 1 to 4; down from 1.5 to 0.7 for children ages 5 to 14.

Low-cost smoke alarms helped the most, said John R. Hall, chief research analyst at the National Fire Protection Association in Quincy, Mass. They've been found to cut fire-injury rates by as much as 80 percent. Half of U.S. homes had alarms in 1980; by 2000, 95 percent did.

Better trauma care and treatment helped, too. Today, few children with burns over less than 60 percent of their bodies die of them.

Other factors, according to Hall: flameproof pajamas, declines in smoking, the introduction of self-extinguishing cigarettes—which 16 states now require—and the Consumer Product Safety Commission's 1994 mandate that disposable lighters be childproof.

■ Drownings; deaths down from 5.7 to 2.8 per 100,000 for children ages 1 to 4; down from 2.5 to 0.7 for children ages 5 to 14.

The vast majority of infant and toddler drownings occur in backyard pools, according to Sue Gallagher, the director of the Tufts Medical School's Health Communication Program in Boston. In the 1970s, Australia found that effective fencing can reduce those deaths by 80 percent.

U.S. jurisdictions followed suit. The best rules require four-sided fences with self-closing, self-latching gates. Three-sided fences with sliding glass doors on the fourth side do little good, according to Dr. Mick Ballesteros, an epidemiologist at the CDC's injury center in Atlanta.

Ballesteros cites indirect factors in the decline in drownings, too. Among them: declines in drinking among adults and one that cuts two ways—less active kids who swim less.

■ Cancer; deaths down from 4.5 to 2.5 per 100,000 for children ages 1 to 4; down from 4.3 to 2.5 for children ages 5 to 14.

Brenda Edwards and Lynn Ries, surveillance researchers at the National Cancer Institute, attribute the decline to earlier detection plus very aggressive treatment and better chemotherapeutic drugs. Leukemia, especially acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common form of cancer in children, was the first to yield, said Dr. Alan Wayne, the clinical director for pediatric oncology at the National Cancer Institute.

"In the `60s, AL leukemia was considered a death sentence," Wayne said. "Now the five-year survival rates approach 80 to 90 percent." Brain tumors, the next most common cancer, have yielded somewhat to new surgical techniques and better radiation therapy, Wayne said, "but the improvements have been less dramatic."

■ Heart disease; deaths down from 2.6 to 1.2 per 100,000 for children ages 1 to 4; down from 0.9 to 0.6 among children ages 5 to 14.

Cardiologist Webb credits "tremendous advances in surgery for congenital heart disease," plus advances in case management and medications for both congenital heart disease—the most common form among kids—and cardiomyopathy, a heart muscle disease.

■ Pneumonia and influenza; deaths down from 2.1 to 0.7 per 100,000 in children ages 1 to 4; down from 0.6 to 0.2 in children ages 5 to 14.

Dr. Joseph Bocchini, the chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics committee on infectious diseases, attributes much of the decline to more effective delivery of flu vaccine to all children ages 6 months to 59 months. And children of all ages with underlying medical conditions that increase their flu risk, such as asthma, go to the head of the line.

■ Suffocation; deaths down from 1.9 to 1.0 per 100,000 in children ages 1 to 4; flat at 0.9 for children ages 5 to 14.

The federal Consumer Product Safety Commission led the way with campaigns to reduce the width between slats in cribs, discourage soft bedding for infants and encourage parents to put babies to sleep on their backs to avert sudden infant death syndrome.

■ Firearms; deaths down from 0.7 to 0.3 per 100,000 in children ages 1 to 4; down from 1.6 to 0.7 in children ages 5 to 14.

Since 1989, 18 states have passed child access-prevention laws that require gun locks and locked gun-storage cabinets. However, only in Florida and California—two of three states in which violations can be punished as a felony—have the laws had a statistically significant effect on child mortality, according to a 2006 study.

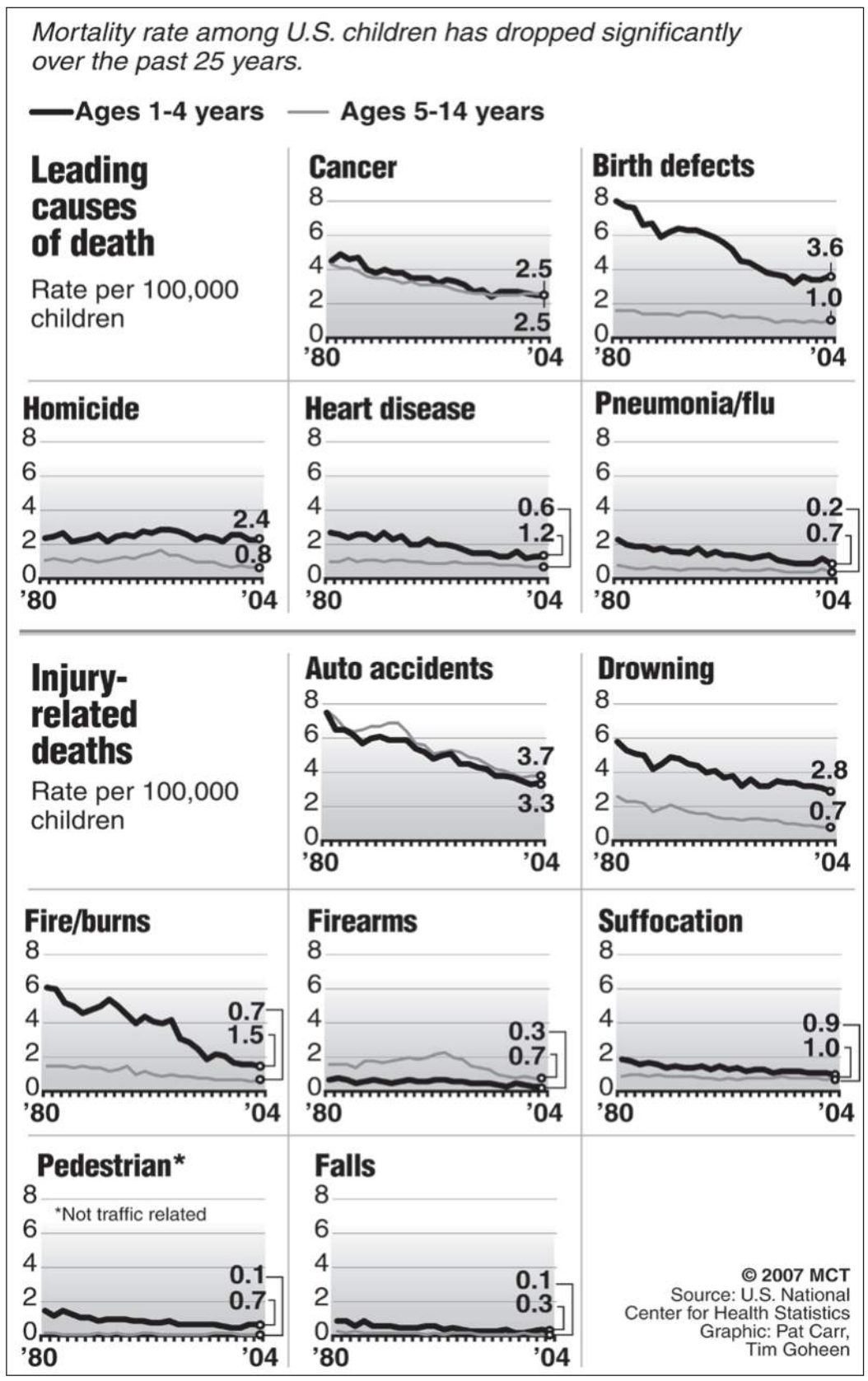
Peter Hamm, spokesman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, headquartered in Washington, suspects that improvements in trauma care for gunshot victims helped reduce mortality, too.

Rachel Parsons, spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association, gives credit to its nationwide gun-safety education program for children, "Eddie Eagle," which began in 1988. She also credits the NRA's safe gun-storage educational programs for adults.

■ Falls; deaths down from 0.9 to 0.3 per 100,000 for kids ages 1 to 4; down from 0.3 to 0.1 for kids ages 5 to 14.

Most fatal falls for kids are from apartment windows. New York's rate dropped 96 percent after the city's health department required in 1979 that the landlords of multifamily buildings whose occupants included children younger than 11 provide $3 window guards for them. Other urban areas followed suit.

McClatchy Researcher Tish Wells and Jeanette Hudson, senior librarian for the Children's Safety Network in Newton, Mass., contributed to this report.



RESOURCES

■ To review the latest assessment of U.S. child welfare, go to http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/index.asp.

■ To review its statistics on child mortality, go to Appendix A of the report and click on PHY6.b and PHY6.c.

Campus Life

Libyan children start school year without Gadhafi

By KIM GAMEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)— Boys and girls chanted slogans against Moammar Gadhafi and teachers hanged an effigy of the fugitive leader as many Libyan children started their first school year without the "brother leader" dictating the curriculum.

Euphoria filled the halls on Saturday, but teachers admitted a lot needed to be done to overhaul an educational system where a main goal for nearly 42 years was to instill adoration of Gadhafi and what he touted as the greatest system of rule in the world—the "Jamahiriya," a utopian "rule by the masses" that in reality boiled down to rule by Gadhafi.

At the Al-Fayha Elementary School, boys dashed around the courtyard unfurling the red, black and green revolutionary flag that has replaced the old regime's green banner. Students, many decked out in "Free Libya" T-shirts in the same colors sang, "You are a free Libyan, raise your head up" and other victory songs.

In the same courtyard last year, the kids would have started their day lined up to sing in praise of Gadhafi.

"I am happy because the frizzhead has run away," said 10-year-old Mofida Abdul-Hakim, using a popular insult for the curly-haired Gadhafi.

Like many, she greeted friends she hadn't seen for weeks because so many families were holed up in their houses in fear before Tripoli fell to anti-Gadhafi forces on Aug. 21. Abdul-Hakim said she had seen people wounded during violence in Tripoli—but she proclaimed that she wasn't afraid.

The school, with around 800 students, sits on the edge of Tripoli's Fashloum neighborhood, which saw some of the fiercest clashes between Gadhafi supporters and rebels.

The school opening is part of attempts by the National Transitional Council, once the leadership of the rebellion and now closest thing to a government in the North African nation, to restore a sense of normalcy despite continued fighting in three southern and central areas that remain loyal to Gadhafi.

Not all facilities in Tripoli opened their doors, and school officials urged patience, saying it will take time to build a new curriculum and provide new equipment after years of strict control by Gadhafi's regime.

"I believe the National Transitional Council will give us new books, computers and tapes," said headmistress Moofidha Nashnoush as she rushed through the halls hanging up new flags and hugging her colleagues. "We need to help the children forget the Gadhafi era and start fresh."

Framed pictures of Gadhafi sat on the floor facing the wall in her office, waiting to be taken away.

Al-Fayha's second-floor library is still filled with Gadhafi's Green Book, his political manifesto that explains his "Third Universal Theory for a new democratic society." Staff said they might have a party to get rid of the hated material.

The same teachers were working in the previous school year, teaching the regime's curriculum. They all said Saturday they were happy to be rid of it.

AP

Hawa Fakhary, 8, listens as children and teachers chant revolutionary and anti-Moammar Gadhafi chants in the courtyard of the Al-Fayha School in Tripoli, Libya, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011.

Bahoula Salam Ergei, a 37-year-old teacher, recalled how her lesson plan—including teaching the Green Book and the "mind of Gadhafi"—was always dictated by orders handed down from the regime and she was afraid to change it. Others said authorities often ordered sudden, random changes that they had to follow.

"We will have a very good future without Gadhafi," Ergei said. "We have to explain to the children what's new with the revolution and help them forget the violence."

She teared up as she recalled how her own son was shot in the leg in front of her eyes and had to go to Tunisia to be treated.

There were hints at the difficult road ahead for reconciliation in a country where all were forced to go along with the regime—but some did so more enthusiastically and sincerely than others.

A heated argument broke out in the courtyard when one teacher accused another of having been pro-Gadhafi.

The woman insisted she supported the revolution.

"I agree with this new situation. We need freedom and we need new subjects in school," she said, eagerly reaching out for fliers making fun of the ousted leader.

Her accuser hesitated before finally giving her one. "We were with the rebels but we are kind and will be nice to you," she told the teacher.

In the school courtyard, Nashnoush led dozens of children in songs and chants about the new Libya. At one point, teachers strung up a puppet with Gadhafi's frizzy hair and trademark sunglasses up the flagpole as the children cheered.

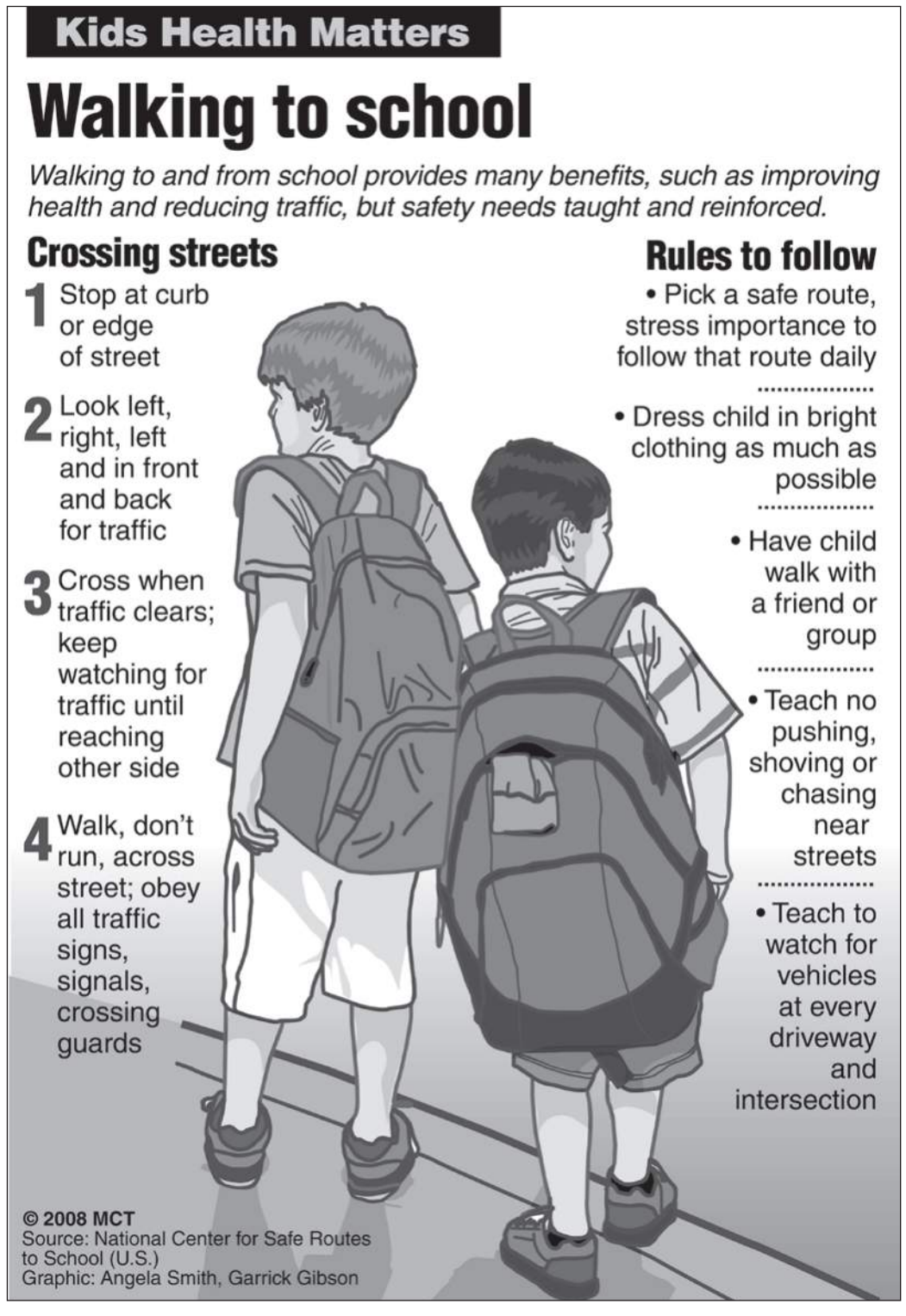
The kids mobbed around school counselor Amal Suleiman el-Aroud as she carried a poster of Gadhafi to a concrete platform. "Who is this man?" she yelled.

"He is the war criminal, the one who killed our fathers and uncles," the children cried back.

She then tore the poster up and set one of the pieces on fire.

AP

Libyan girls are seen outside school after attending the first day of classes in Tripoli, Libya, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011.


Kids Health Matters
Walking to school
Walking to and from school provides many benefits, such as improving health and reducing traffic, but safety needs taught and reinforced.
Crossing streets
1 Stop at curb or edge of street
2 Look left, right, left and in front and back for traffic
3 Cross when traffic clears; keep watching for traffic until reaching other side
4 Walk, don't run, across street; obey all traffic signs, signals, crossing guards
Rules to follow
• Pick a safe route, stress importance to follow that route daily
• Dress child in bright clothing as much as possible
• Have child walk with a friend or group
• Teach no pushing, shoving or chasing near streets
• Teach to watch for vehicles at every driveway and intersection
© 2008 MCT
Source: National Center for Safe Routes to School (U.S.)
Graphic: Angela Smith, Garrick Gibson

Life & Style

CBS' 'Two and a Half Men' kills Sheen's character

NEW YORK (AP)—"Two and a Half Men" creator Chuck Lorre introduced Ashton Kutcher as a new star of television's most popular comedy on Monday, and gained a measure of revenge against the departed Charlie Sheen in the process.

How Sheen's character Charlie Harper would be killed off was a closely-held secret and it was revealed right away during the season premiere: he slipped on a subway platform in Paris and was hit by an oncoming train.

"His body just exploded like a balloon full of meat," Harper's obsessed neighbor Rose explained.

Sheen went on a spectacular, insult-spewing rampage against Lorre and CBS after he was fired for drug use and erratic behavior earlier this year. Lorre took the arrows silently—until Monday night.

The show opened with Jon Cryer, who played ad writer Harper's sad-sack brother Alan, speaking at Charlie's wake in front of a coffin and one of Sheen's signature shirts. Alan said that it was a sad day for everyone.

"Speak for yourself," one woman shouted from the audience.

Harper said that his brother gave everything he got in life—and women called out sexual diseases that they had contracted from him.

Later, Harper's housekeeper noted that all he had ever asked for was "clean sheets and hosing the vomit off the occasional drug-addled hooker."

The character of Charlie Harper was always considered a thinly-veiled version of Sheen in real life. Lorre's script drove that point home with little romance or sentimentality. After a delivery man brings Harper's ashes in a golden urn, Alan has a conversation and says it was "just like old times. I'm talking and you're in a bottle ignoring me." He considered how to dispose of the ashes, perhaps sprinkling them on the nearby beach.

"It's simple, dignified, and pretty girls with oil will be sitting on you all day," Alan said. "It's kind of like your life—except for the dignified part."

When Kutcher surprises Cryer's character by appearing at the doorway, Charlie's ashes are spilled all over the floor.

Lorre's barbs come just as Sheen has been expressing contrition in recent days. He said on the "Tonight" show that he would have fired himself if he was in charge at CBS or the show's producer. On the Emmy Awards telecast Sunday, he said he wanted to sincerely wish Kutcher and his old colleagues good luck for the new season.

Lorre packed his show with a couple of inside jokes. John Stamos plays a potential buyer of Harper's house who backs off when he finds out who lived there. Stamos was widely considered a possible successor to Sheen before Kutcher was hired.

Actors Jenna Elfman and Thomas Gibson also appeared as potential buyers, playing their old characters Dharma and Greg, a Lorre-produced series that aired on ABC from 1997 to 2002.

Kutcher plays Internet billionaire Walden Schmidt, who made his appearance wet from a suicide attempt in the ocean. It seems Schmidt may be tall, good looking and rich, but he's morose about a lost love.

Kutcher joins right in on the sex jokes that are the show's stock in trade. He walks around naked, and other characters comment on his anatomy. Alan Harper takes Schmidt out to drink, where Schmidt meets two women and brings them to Harper's home.

"I dig your house," he said. "I'm going to buy it."

That appears to set up the second episode, explaining how Schmidt comes to live with two people he doesn't know in a house he just saw.

Charlie Sheen presents the award for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series at the 63rd Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011 in Los Angeles. AP

Source: Sheen, Warner nearing deal on lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former "Two and a Half Men" star Charlie Sheen and the studio that fired him are drawing closer to a deal to end their legal dispute.

According to a person familiar with the talks, Sheen and Warner Bros. were near an agreement but still at work on it Monday. The person was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Calls to Sheen's attorney were not returned. In a statement, the studio said no deal had been reached and declined further comment.

Sheen filed a $100 million lawsuit for wrongful termination against Warner after his firing, which followed bitter public tirades directed at the studio and the show's executive producer.

A judge ordered arbitration in the case, with a status report set for December.

The Los Angeles Times reported that final touches are being put on a deal that would give Sheen about $25 million to settle out of his contract.

Sheen was the highest-paid actor in television, with a per-episode salary reported to be between $1.2 million to $2 million.

His clash with producers cut short last season for the CBS series that is TV's highest-rated comedy.

"Two and a Half Men" returned to the air Monday with Ashton Kutcher joining the cast as a new character. He plays an Internet billionaire who decides to buy the house that had been owned by Sheen's now-deceased character.

In a recent turnaround, Sheen has been making conciliatory gestures toward his former show.

Appearing at Sunday's Emmy Awards as a presenter, he addressed the "Two and a Half Men" cast and crew, saying, "I wish you nothing but the best for this upcoming season."

In an interview with Matt Lauer on "Today" last week, the actor known for his hard-partying life said he didn't know how to "put out the fire" when he was fired and began a manic round of media appearances talking about "tiger blood" and "winning."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Delia Ann Cabrera Cepeda

Lovingly known as "Del" / "Ding"

Born to life on April 21, 1966

Called to her eternal rest by our Heavenly father on September 16, 2011.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children: Cezanne Matise, Christy Lynn, Cloe Jane, Colin John, David Jonathan
Mother: Eugenia Cabrera Cepeda
Brother: Raymond Randy C. Cepeda & Zania Fleming
(Sinahi Ray, Krissy, Kahi)
Sisters: Leonora Lee C. & Felimon K. Camacho
(Wendy Jeanine, Kaitleen Keisey, Leonard Joseph)
Elsie Lynne C. Fejeran & Press m. Camacho
(VJ & Trudy, AJ, Bryanna Lynn, Pressel Jean)
Jordonna Lena C. Cepeda *(Vida-Nekoj Kruzana)*
Godparents: Manuel Sablan & Edith Cruz
Uncles, Aunties, & Families:
Margarita C. & Pedro W. Torres
Margaret Bertha C. Torres & Mike Sablan and family
Jaquelin T. & Joseph D. Camacho and family
Peter W. II & Trina Dlg. Torres and family
Jesse C. & Gina T. Torres and family
Risha C. Torres & Joseph Lifoifoi II and family
Victorina C. Butteris & †Glenn D. Butteris
Darrin C. Butteris & Doris DLGuerrero and family
Remedios C. & Vicente P. Diaz
Vicente P. Diaz, Jr.
Adrian C. Diaz
Thomas C. Diaz & Chelsey and family
Kekoa C. Diaz
Diana C. & Francisco C. Torres
Pamela C. Torres and family
Jeffrey C. Torres and family
Kolani C. Torres and family
Francisco W. Torres & Germaine Cabrera
Dolores C. & Juan S. Camacho
Leila C. & Dante N. Yumul and family
Peter C. Camacho & Eva Calvo and family
Nasia C. Camacho & Craig S. Sanchez and family
Juan S. Camacho, Jr.
†Juan Celis Cabrera
Rodney C. Cabrera & Naomi Nishimura and family
Rowena C. Cabrera and family
Laura Jean C. Cabrera and family
Juan C. Cabrera Jr. & Jadine Ada
Bernadita C. & Mark I. Palacios
Velma C. Palacios & Joe Santos and family
Marvin C. Palacios and family
Franklin C. Palacios
Mark C. Palacios
Pedro C. & Emerina S. Cabrera
Peoni C. Cabrera and family
Penny Lee C. Cabrera
Victoria Cepeda & Francisco Quitano
Mae Q. & Glenn Dikito and family
William C. & Candy Quitano and family
Pilar Q. & Joseph C. Lizama and family
Manuel C. & Orpha C. Quitano and family
Estella Sablan Cepeda
Brenda Cepeda and family
Victorino S. & Marcelina P. Cepeda
Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda and family
Frankie P. Cepeda
Dolores A. & Dave Eagle
Melissa A. Manibusan and family
Mark A. Manibusan and family
She will also be missed by: Jose A. & Teresita R. Manalo
Jesse R. & Hagathea P. Manalo
Hiroko & Hirokoni Suzuki
Michiko Ariga
Jae Won & Chang Sook Kim

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: Calistro Sablan Cepeda
Brother: Leonard John Cabrera Cepeda
Brother In-law: Vicente Fejeran
Grandparents: Leonardo Camacho & Ignacia Celis Cabrera
Juan Blas Cepeda & Soledad Sablan Cepeda-Aguon
Jose Cruz – Aguon
Aunties: Marina Cepeda, Fermina Cepeda
Uncles: Fernando Sablan Cepeda, Glenn D. Butteris, Juan Celis Cabrera
Cousin: Serafina C. Diaz

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:00 p.m. each evening at their residence in As Teo.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, September 26, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 9:00 a.m. to their residence in As Teo. Upon arrival at the residence, Responso Service will take place at 9:30 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 10:00 am. Public viewing and last respects will immediately follow.

At 1:30 p.m. Our beloved †Del will be taken to Kristo Rai Church in Garapan for the Mass of Christian Burial which will be celebrated at 2:00pm. Interment services will follow immediately at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you – Si Yuus Maase

Eugenia Cabrera Cepeda and family
Children of the late †Delia Ann Cabrera Cepeda

WHISKED AWAY TO ANOTHER WORLD

Cooking school gives the true flavors of France

By LINDA BERGSTROM
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

LINDA BERGSTROM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Students in the gourmet cooking class of the Hostellerie Berard in La Cadiere d'Azur, France do most of the work.

LA CADIERE D'AZUR, France—It is day four of cooking class at La Bastide des Saveurs, and many of the 14 students are looking for chairs to catch a few minutes of rest before the whisking begins. But it is also dessert day, so a delicious reward at the end is guaranteed.

Such are the joys, and challenges, of a gourmet cooking class at the estate of the Hostellerie Berard in La Cadiere d'Azur, France.

There is work to be done, and instructions to follow, during a day that can stretch to seven hours. The key also is to have fun. Who wants to work on vacation?

The setting is movie-set-perfect: The rustic kitchen of a 19th century country house in the Provencal countryside. Pass by the herb and vegetable garden on the way to the kitchen with chef Rene Berard.

A cutting board and knife await each student around the wooden block table. Bowls of cubed butter, sugar, yellow apples and pine nuts give clues to the day's tasks. Berard walks in, and it's time to grab your knife, or your pen to take notes, and get cooking.

This class has its share of English speakers—from Australia, Canada, South Carolina and Chicago—so the translator takes her spot across from Berard. The veal stock is already boiling on the stove, and the smell is heavenly. Every so often during the day, an assistant stops by to pour in another bottle of red wine or drop in herbs, vegetables—even hooves.

The cooking lineup includes two kinds of tarts, lemon and apple, along with chocolate fondant (think: the original molten chocolate cake), a wafer and fruit creation, and a French classic in sauce vanille bourbon.

The students take turns cracking eggs, whisking ("No air!" cautions the chef), rolling out pastry, stirring sauces, even tossing cooked apples in the pan before the concoction is set aflame. Do something wrong, and you get a gentle suggestion from Berard. Do it correctly, and you get a smile and "Ah, perfect."

There is time to soak in the atmosphere. The window is cracked open and reveals a prototypical Provence countryside. Copper pans crowd the space above the stove, and dried herbs in glass jars line the countertops. The tile walls of red and yellow shout Provence.

Desserts do not make a meal, so the lesson also includes an artichoke salad featuring artichokes from the garden. The students have had a hand in the entire lunch menu, so the lamb that was deboned and put in a marinade days ago is brought out. Berard arranges the meat just so before he hands it over to assistants to cook. That pot of veal stock is strained; not much is left from a day of work, but what a taste it has.

Then it is outside to the terrace to enjoy the fruits of the students' labor. A table under canopy is already set with glasses, cutlery and bottles of wine.

The students and Berard take their seats, and the food parade begins: bread and olive tapenade and anchovy paste; ratatouille; lamb with pistachio butter; vegetable terrine; mashed potatoes; artichokes with shallots, celery and mushrooms. And desserts.

Conversation ranges from the nightly parties (the seaport of Cassis is on the night's agenda) to the bouillabaisse to the honey farm visited earlier in the week.

One of the younger students, recent college grad Arielle Saporta of Chicago, marveled at the garden tour earlier in the week. "There were four different types of basil," she said.

The 1 p.m. stated ending time stretches to 3:30 p.m., but no one wants to leave.

There is talk that Berard will not be doing this much longer. Someone asks him directly. His words are translated: "The day I don't have a passion, I'll stop."

The students nod knowingly, then offer a toast.

IF YOU GO

La Cadiere d'Azur is one of those picturesque French towns. It is big enough to have several decent restaurants and small enough that you feel you are experiencing life as a resident.

The charming Hostellerie Berard (hotel-berard.com) occupies several buildings in town. It may seem as if you are on a treasure hunt as you travel down corridors, up and down steps and across alleys to find your room. Ours had no embellishments but was functional and clean. The extras came in the fabulous view of the refreshing pool and enchanting valley below. Rooms range from $145 out of season to $420 for a suite in peak summer season.

The family of chef Rene Berard runs the hotel, the top-notch restaurant and the cooking school. Most cooking students opt for the longer four-day class; costs, including room for five nights, breakfasts and other events, start at $2,450. You can also do what I did and hook up with a group for a one-day class; my rate was $215. The schedule changes (classes begin again in September), so it is best to check for availability.

The location gives you day-trip options in Provence and the Cote d'Azur. Cassis has the beach and the seaside restaurants. Le Castellet has steep streets and touristy shops but a great regional wine shop at its base. Bormes-les-Mimosas has wonderful flowers and towering seascape views.

Taylor Armstrong says late husband was abusive

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Armstrong of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" said in a TV interview that her late husband subjected her to an abusive and frightening life.

On a segment of "Entertainment Tonight" airing Tuesday, Armstrong talks about her marriage with Russell Armstrong, who committed suicide last month, and its effect on their daughter.

"He grabbed me by the neck and shoved me against the wall and he said, 'If you ever make my children a pizza without a vegetable again, I'll kill you," Taylor Armstrong told "Entertainment Tonight," according to a transcript from the entertainment news program.

The couple was estranged when Russell Armstrong, 47, hanged himself Aug. 15. He was depressed about financial issues and problems with his wife, according to a coroner's report.

Taylor Armstrong says she explained his death carefully to her young daughter.

"I just told her Daddy got sick and he died, and that we could pick a star in the sky that could be daddy and that she could talk to him every night," she told "Entertainment Tonight."

AP

In this Feb. 5, 2011 file photo, television personality Taylor Armstrong, left, and husband Russell Armstrong attend a Super Bowl party in Dallas, Texas.

Taylor Armstrong filed for divorce July 15. Russell Armstrong had yet to respond to her petition when he committed suicide.

Russell Armstrong addressed rumors about the couple's problems in an interview with People magazine in July:

"Did I push her? Yes, maybe things happened in the heat of the moment, but it was during a time in our lives that was not characteristic of who we were. This show has literally pushed us to the limit."

Dolores Hope, wife of Bob Hope, dies at 102

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dolores Hope, the sultry-voiced songstress who was married to Bob Hope for 69 years and sometimes sang on his shows for U.S. troops and on his television specials, has died at age 102.

Hope family spokesman Harlan Boll said Hope died Monday of natural causes at home in Los Angeles. He did not elaborate.

"Both the entertainment world and the church have lost a woman of profound faith, gifted musical talent and dedication," said Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez. "The death of Dolores Hope leaves a huge void in Southern California."

Bob Hope died at age 100 on July 27, 2003.

At her 100th birthday party, Dolores Hope appeared little changed: Her white hair was richly coiffed, her skin smooth and her voice deep and warm. She was brought to the party in a wheelchair but was alert and happy as she greeted old friends and posed for photographs.

Hope mused, "I thought it was going to be just another birthday."

In 1933, when Bob Hope was appearing in his first Broadway show, "Roberta," his friend and fellow cast member George Murphy persuaded him to visit the Vogue Club to "hear a pretty girl sing." She was Dolores Reade, a dark beauty whose singing of "It's Only a Paper Moon" entranced the young comedian.

Hope

"I'll never forget what a wonderful singer she was," said Rip Taylor. "In fact, that's how Bob and Dolores met. It seems to me that they were always laughing."

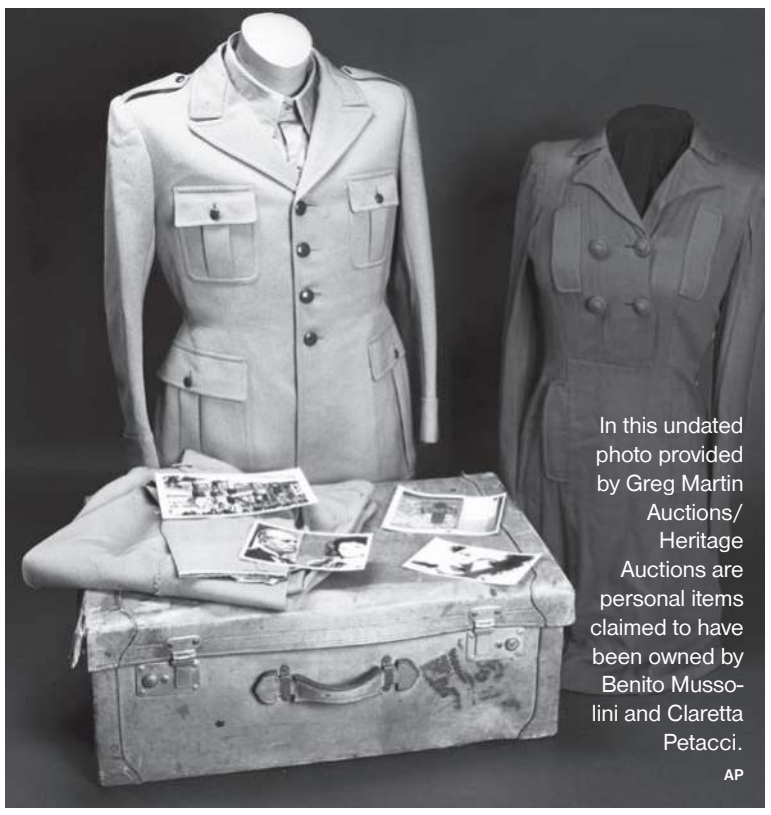
Hope returned every night and soon he was escorting her to her hotel after her shows. They married Feb. 19, 1934, and she quit nightclubs to join his vaudeville act. Then she retired.

"Bob was the hot thing in New York then," she recalled in 1997. "I thought I'd better stay home and take care of Bob."

When they moved to Hollywood in 1938 for the beginning of his film career, Dolores stayed home and devoted her time to raising the four children the Hopes adopted: Linda, Anthony, Kelly and Nora. "I had such a huge admiration for both of them," said Julie Newmar. "The quality it takes to get just one year older, says a lot about that fact that she lived to 102."

She continued singing at parties, and in the 1940s she began accompanying Hope on his Christmas trips to entertain U.S. troops. In 1966 she sang "Silent Night" to hushed thousands of GI's who then rose and gave her a thunderous ovation, many with tears in their eyes.

Mussolini's duds sell for $5.5K at Texas auction



In this undated photo provided by Greg Martin Auctions/ Heritage Auctions are personal items claimed to have been owned by Benito Mussolini and Claretta Petacci.
AP

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP)—A suitcase and clothing purported to have belonged to Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress and obtained by a World War II veteran from western New York have been sold at an auction for more than $5,000.

The Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester reports (http://bit.ly/qx8-NTc) Mussolini's uniform and Claretta Petacci's dress sold for $5,500 during Sunday's auction in Dallas. The auctioneer had estimated the items would fetch $10,000 to $15,000.

The items were put up for auction by the widow of Paul Moriconi, a Rochester-area doctor who acquired the suitcase in the last days of the war, when he was serving in northern Italy. Italian partisans gave the suitcase to his commanding officer after Mussolini and Petacci were captured and executed while trying to flee to Switzerland in April 1945.

Paul Moriconi died last year.

Nielsen says 12.4 million viewers for Emmys

NEW YORK (AP)—Television networks must hope interest in the Emmy Awards is not a sign of things to come.

Nielsen said Monday that the annual ceremony honoring the best in TV was seen by 12.4 million viewers on Fox Sunday night. That's about a million fewer viewers than watched each of the last two years. The Emmys' look backward at memorable work also serves as the kickoff to a new TV season. Competition was tough, with an NFL game getting 21.5 million viewers.

The digital recorder company TiVo says Charlie Sheen's presentation of the best comic actor award was the moment most played back and watched on recorders.

Jon Cryer receives star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Two and a Half Men" star Jon Cryer on Monday received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and thanked former co-star Charlie Sheen and the show's co-creators for intervening during last season when troubles arose.

Cryer, 46, was honored with the 2,449th star on the famed walkway. Among those who attended were "Two and a Half" creator Chuck Lorre and co-stars Ashton Kutcher and Angus T. Jones.

Kutcher has replaced Sheen on TV's top-rated comedy after Lorre and the Warner Bros. studio feuded with their erratic, hard-partying star. They fired Sheen last March, cutting the series short. Sheen, however had well wishes for his former show on Sunday during the Emmys.

After recognizing Sheen, Cryer gave props to Lorre and co-creator Lee Aronsohn who "when they saw somebody clearly in distress, they took every possible means to try and help their friend," he said. "When it came time to make the ultimate decision, which was some place nobody wanted to go, did something that, in my belief, saved my friend Charlie Sheen's life."

Cryer made his film debut in the 1984 romantic comedy "No Small Affair," and was best known for his role as Phil "Duckie" Dale in "Pretty in Pink" before landing a spot on CBS' "Two and a Half Men." He has received six consecutive Emmy nominations for supporting actor in a comedy series, winning two years ago.

Cryer also has performed on Broadway in "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "Torch Song Trilogy."

AP
In this photo taken Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, actor Jon Cryer poses with his star on the Hollwood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. Cryer will resume his role in "Two and a Half Men."

Kate Drives 88: Reality TV mom pays speeding fine

EAST EARL, Pa. (AP)—Reality TV mom Kate Gosselin says she was hurrying home to her children when she was stopped for speeding last month in central Pennsylvania.

The Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era reports the star of TLC's Kate Plus 8 pleaded guilty by mail to a speeding ticket for going 88 mph in a 65 mph zone.

State police say Gosselin was speeding in Brecknock Township around 1:30 a.m. on August 9. Court documents say she pleaded guilty on August 17 and paid $174 in fines and court costs.

The Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era report says Gosselin told officers she was speeding to get home to her kids.

Gosselin's reality show about her life as the mother of twins and sextuplets was canceled this year. The last episode aired September 12.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

New 'Dancing' cast makes its ballroom debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Dancing With the Stars" unveiled its new ballroom and new cast Monday, and when all the dancing was done, singer Chynna Phillips and actor J.R. Martinez topped the judges' leaderboard. Phillips and Martinez each earned 22 points out of 30 for their Viennese waltzes—the night's highest score. Basketball star Ron Artest landed in last place with 14 points. Head judge Len Goodman called Artest's cha-cha "all sizzle and no sausage." Also making their dancing debut on the hit ABC show were World Cup soccer player Hope Solo; reality stars Robert Kardashian and Kristin Cavallari; TV personalities Nancy Grace and Ricki Lake; actor David Arquette and J.R. Martinez; and Italian actress Elisabetta Canalis, who may be better known in the United States for being George Clooney's ex-girlfriend.

Posthumous Reynolds Price memoir coming next year

NEW YORK (AP)—A memoir that Reynolds Price was working on at the time of his death will be published next year, with a foreword by Anne Tyler. Scribner spokesman Brian Belfiglio said Monday that "Midstream: An Unfinished Memoir" would come out in May 2012. The book is billed as "the fourth and final memoir" by the acclaimed Price, who died in January at age 77. He was known for such novels as "A Long and Happy Life" and for the memoir "Clear Pictures." Tyler, author of "The Accidental Tourist" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Breathing Lessons," studied under Price at Duke University.

Merlin Olsen's heirs settle asbestos lawsuit in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The family of Hall of Fame football player and actor Merlin Olsen has settled a lawsuit with several asbestos companies that they say caused the rare form of cancer he contracted late in life. Attorneys for Olsen's wife and three children filed a notice of settlement on Wednesday in Los Angeles without providing further details. A member of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fearsome Foursome" in the 1960s, Olsen died in March 2010 after battling mesothelioma. Olsen claimed the cancer of the lung lining was caused by exposure to asbestos products at construction sites he worked on as a youth. The settlement covers 10 companies that manufactured or used the products. The former defensive tackle later appeared in the TV series "Little House on the Prairie" as well as commercials and NFL broadcasts.

A smile goes a long way toward making new friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: When I was in middle school, I was pretty much an outcast. In the summer between eighth grade and high school, I read a Dear Abby column where you offered advice to someone who was shy like me. You recommended that the writer smile and greet people every day. You also published a booklet to help us to be more outgoing.

When I got to high school, I took your advice. Your column changed my life. During my senior year I became involved in drama, choir and sports, and I was elected student body president.

I am now a mom with two children. I hold a master's degree and have a wide array of friends all over the world. I am a public speaker, poet and actor—all bacause you wrote to someone like me and told that person how to make friends.

Recently a friend and I were discussing that column, and he said, "I wish I had seen it!" Abby, please repeat those words and let people know if the booklet is still available. Folks of all ages need that message of friendship and guidance. Thank you for the impact it has had on my life.

RENEE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR RENEE: I'm pleased that my column was so helpful for you at a time when you needed it. I think I know the column you mentioned. The reply echoed advice that's in my booklet "How to Be Popular." It said: "No matter what you wear, the expression on your face is your greatest asset—or liability. Would you want to strike up a conversation with someone who looks like he (or she) is mad at the world? Well, neither would anyone else. So, if you're wearing a perpetual frown, get rid of it. Trade it for a smile.

"You can walk down the street in any foreign country in the world, and even though you may not be able to understand a word they're saying, when you see a smile, you get a message. It's the universal way of saying, 'I'm friendly.'

"I'm not suggesting you go around with a perpetual phony grin pasted on your face, but try to develop the habit of looking cheerful, pleasant and happy. It attracts."

"How to Be Popular" was written in response to many thousands of letters from readers over the years who are not naturally socially assertive, and others who have asked for guidance on where and how to meet nice people like themselves, what to say or not to say, and how to be the kind of person others will find interesting, attractive and worth knowing better, and can be ordered by sending your name and address, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. Another important observation from the booklet that wasn't in the column you saw is, "There are two kinds of people—those who come into a room and their attitude says, 'Here I am!' and those who come into a room and their attitude is, 'There you are!

"The 'there-you-are' type is the winner. If you want to receive a warm welcome, remember the happier you are to see others, the happier they'll be to see you."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OK... EVERYONE IN THE WATER!
I REFUSE! I'M FREEZING ALREADY!
CALVIN, DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "RAT TAIL" IS?
NO.
IT'S WHEN YOU SOAK A TOWEL AND TWIST IT UP INTO A WHIP. IT STINGS LIKE CRAZY AND IS MUCH WORSE THAN BEING COLD. GET MY DRIFT?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT LIFE-GUARDS WERE JUST TAUGHT HOW TO RESUSCITATE PEOPLE AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SNIFF
AH, SEPTEMBER. KIDS IN SCHOOL. PERFECT DAYS, PERFECT NIGHTS.
YOU MAY BE MY FAVORITE MONTH.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE WHOLE "ROCK-TOBER" MYTH WAS DEBUNKED.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

So Let Me Get This STRAIGHT.
You THINK ALL of These Recent HURRICANES Are PART of A PLOT To BOOST RATINGS for the WEATHER CHANNEL?
OF Course! IT's SWEEPS Week!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

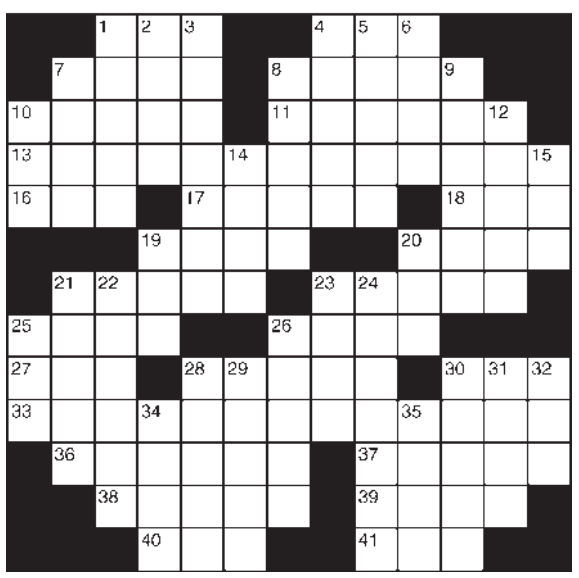
ACROSS
1 Suitcase
4 Gear tooth
7 Antitoxins
8 Bake, in a way
10 Curtain material
11 Environment
13 Breakfast choice
16 Historic time
17 Sensational
18 Winter ailment
19 Dilbert's workplace
20 Blood line?
21 Sports-page datum
23 Expositions
25 Greek H's
26 Senate employee
27 Actor Danson
28 Handy
30 Shock and —
33 Quahog
36 Throw off the track
37 Novelist Bret Easton —
38 Zodiac dozen
39 Chimney dust
40 "Married ... With Children" mom
41 James Bond, e.g.

DOWN
1 Legendary catcher
2 Desert-like
3 Casino patron
4 Tex-Mex entree
5 Lubricated
6 Crossword diagram
7 Wound reminder
8 Smug look
9 Illicit cigarette
10 That woman
12 Wrinkly fruits
14 English river
15 Pistol
19 Two, in Tijuana
20 Compete
21 Lieu
22 Core groups
23 Succumb to gravity
24 Eternal
25 Biblical verb suffix
26 Brooklyn-based beer brand
28 Grammarian's concern
29 Addams Family's "hired hand"
30 Metallic blend
31 Be patient
32 Summertime trio?
34 Faucet problem
35 Hoofbeat sound

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	A	S	P	■	S	T	Y	■	P	U	M	P
E	V	E	R	■	E	R	E	■	O	R	E	O
M	E	M	O	■	A	U	I	O	M	A	I	E
P	R	I	M	A	T	E	■	S	P	L	A	T
■	■	■	P	A	S	■	I	S	O	■	■	■
S	A	I	I	H	■	C	L	I	M	A	I	E
K	I	R	■	■	W	O	K	■	■	R	A	N
I	M	A	M	A	T	E	■	L	A	M	B	S
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	A	I	D	■	■	■
G	I	S	M	O	■	A	N	I	M	A	T	E
I	N	T	I	M	A	T	E	■	I	D	O	L
G	O	O	N	■	D	O	N	■	R	O	W	S
S	N	A	G	■	A	P	T	■	E	S	N	E

Yesterday's answer 9-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Mazzello, 28; Luke Wilson, 40; Faith Hill, 44; Bill Murray, 61.

Happy Birthday: Opportunities will arise, but if you waste time on emotional matters that can't be controlled, you will suffer loss. Know when to walk away from a personal situation that cannot benefit you. Dump any dead weight and put more effort into the things that show promise. Benefits will come if you make the right choice. Your numbers are 1, 6, 13, 21, 28, 33, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't let a setback regarding living arrangements upset you. A change is necessary to eliminate past annoyances. Put emotions on the shelf and deal with matters directly, swiftly and completely. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Overreacting will lead to a messy situation. Stop putting pressure on yourself and demands on others. Chill out and let the dust settle. Enjoying friends or focusing on work and getting ahead will be a far better way to spend your day. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Memories may irk you, but use them as a reminder and you can avoid making a mistake that could result in the loss of a friendship. Say little; do a lot. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Refuse to get drawn into an argument where no one wins. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't judge others, or you will be judged. Help someone in need, without criticizing or preaching. Consider your motives and be open regarding your concerns. No one is perfect, including you. You can do good, or make matters worse. You decide. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your way of thinking is taking an unusual turn. Before you get emotionally pulled into something less than ideal, examine why you are drawn. Focus on long-term benefits and don't let love lead you astray. Put professional ambition first for now. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Renewed friendships will bring back memories and resurrect old ideas and plans. Reconnect with a new attitude and an open heart. Travel to reunite with someone in person. Friendships with foreigners will bring knowledge and favors. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let ambition stand in the way of personal relationships. Tend to your health and refuse to neglect the people and things that are important to you. Find out what you've missed because you didn't take the time. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your willpower and determination is skyrocketing. Connect with people who owe you or have something to offer that you can use to excel. Raise your profile and connect with people who can offer better options. Don't waste time with anger. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Listen carefully. Be prepared to take responsibility. Show respect, honor and integrity, or you will be criticized. Don't try to hide your motives or intentions. Love may be in a high cycle, but without honesty, it will be short-lived. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stop what isn't working. Deal with issues and cut your losses. Use your head and think your way out of whatever situation you face. Dealing with emotions will be difficult, but if you don't make the right choice now, it will become more difficult. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Financial progress is apparent. Invest in your future. Your potential is greater than you imagine. A conversation with someone who thinks like you can lead to a prosperous partnership. Beware of emotional outbursts. Eat well and get some rest. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Work on important relationships. Whether the connection is business or personal, how you react and what you contribute will determine the alliance's longevity and strength. Show compassion and understanding; you'll get it in return. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, passionate and goal-oriented. You strive for progress and are willing to work hard.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	8	4			
		2				5		
	9						8	
	8						9	
	4						7	
		3				4		
		4	5	3	1	9		
	1			7			6	
5				9				7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	4	5	8	1	3	6	2	7
7	3	2	9	6	5	4	1	8
1	6	8	4	2	7	5	9	3
4	9	3	7	5	6	1	8	2
5	2	1	3	8	4	7	6	9
6	8	7	2	9	1	3	5	4
3	1	9	5	4	2	8	7	6
8	7	6	1	3	9	2	4	5
2	5	4	6	7	8	9	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT Solution: 8 letters

L	B	K	S	G	U	H	E	E	M	O	T	O	H	P
U	A	D	A	N	C	E	S	I	A	V	A	S	E	E
G	S	P	H	O	E	P	E	A	R	L	S	R	R	R
G	K	I	T	S	D	L	O	G	G	E	S	S	E	F
A	E	R	O	O	I	K	H	G	O	O	G	D	N	U
G	T	T	T	R	P	D	S	Ⓔ	Ⓝ	Ⓘ	Ⓦ	N	N	M
E	C	N	A	I	L	P	P	A	O	I	S	O	I	E
M	M	O	L	N	T	A	L	L	M	R	K	M	D	L
O	P	O	A	G	R	I	S	T	E	K	N	A	L	B
H	V	P	N	T	Z	S	U	W	T	A	R	I	B	S
E	A	S	Y	E	P	A	O	S	E	E	S	D	O	L
B	O	W	L	S	Y	L	E	G	M	K	K	E	L	E
O	E	M	A	R	F	B	D	A	O	K	E	C	D	W
R	E	T	U	P	M	O	C	O	U	P	O	N	I	O
S	N	O	O	L	L	A	B	R	A	C	E	L	E	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Admission

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Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, **vs.** **NESTOR E. ESMAN,** Defendant. — **Civil Action No. 11-0071-CV**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **September 26, 2011,** at **1:30 pm,** a hearing will be held before Judge Govendo on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of August, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner/Claimant

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LILY A. HOCOG, Deceased. — **Civil Action No. 11-0197-CV**

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION; NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE LILY A. HOCOG OR OF HER ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Marianas Public Land Trust ("Petitioner") has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for Letters of Administration of the Estate of Lily A. Hocog, deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., Attorney at Law.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Petitioner has been set for **27th day of September, 2011 at 1:30pm**, at the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guma'Hustisia, Saipan. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Deceased or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, P. O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

RFP11-DPH-125
Submission Date: October 17, 2011 • Time: 2:00 p.m.

"CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES"

The RFP package may be obtained at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **October 04, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., local time**, at the Commonwealth Health Center Conference Room.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Maria P. Sablan and
Juan R. Sablan
P.O. Box 7975 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 322-0140

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: ANDY S. ESTELLA and RILEY S. ESTELLA Minor Children **By: MARIA P. and JUAN R. SABLAN,** Petitioners. — **FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0389 NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **October 6, 2011, at 10:00am** in Courtroom 202A, before Honorable Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2011.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in this section

Rivera sets MLB saves record with No. 602

NEW YORK (AP)—Mariano Rivera stood by himself, in the center of the diamond at Yankee Stadium. For once, the great closer wasn't sure what to do next. So he smiled, blew a kiss to the crowd, and then doffed his cap as cheers washed over him following the record 602nd save of his career.

"Oh, my God, for the first time in my career, I'm on the mound alone," Rivera said. "It was priceless. I didn't know it could be like that."

Rivera pitched a perfect ninth inning, striking out Chris Parmelee on what appeared to be his signature cut fastball to end the New York Yankees' 6-4 win over the Minnesota Twins on Monday.

Fans from the smallest crowd in the Stadium's three-year history stood and shouted from Rivera's first pitch to his last as he retired Trevor Plouffe, Michael Cuddyer and Parmelee in order and broke Trevor Hoffman's mark.

They even roared in the bottom of the eighth when Nick Swisher grounded into an inning-ending double play - and drew a loud cheer from fans who wanted to see history made at the ballpark for the second time this summer. In July, Derek Jeter got his 3,000th hit at home.

"These guys are into it," Rivera thought to himself.

It's a remarkable achievement, considering the slender right-hander throws mostly one pitch. Opposing hitters have seen it for years, but still haven't figured it out.

"It's amazing," Cuddyer said. "You've got a 99 percent chance of knowing what's coming, and he still is able to go out there and dominate."

So good for so long, Rivera has built a Hall of Fame-caliber career and been a pillar of five World Series championship teams. The only person who might not acknowledge Rivera isn't the best closer of all time is Rivera himself.

"You know me, I'm not like that," Rivera said. "I like to be under the radar, do my job."

He nearly did it outside the country. The 41-year-old Rivera tied Hoffman with save No. 601 on Saturday in Toronto. The AL East leaders lost Sunday, putting Rivera in line to get the milestone in the Yankees' last homestand of the season.

Hoffman earned most of his saves with San Diego and retired after pitching last year with Milwaukee.

"I want to congratulate Mariano Rivera on setting the all-time saves record," Hoffman said in a statement. "It's a great accomplishment and he is still going strong! I have tremendous respect for Mariano not just for his on-field accomplishments, but also for his service to the community."

On Monday, the New York crowd hollered as Rivera came in to the customary strains of Metallica's "Enter Sandman." The fans grew louder with every strike, every out as Rivera closed in. He even broke a bat for good measure—sawing off Parmelee and sending the rookie back to the dugout for another piece of wood.

Parmelee lasted only one more pitch. Plate umpire John Hirschbeck rung him up, and catcher Russell Martin came out to the mound, gently placed the ball in Rivera's glove, and then gave the skinny Panamanian a big hug.

AP

New York Yankees closer Mariano Rivera acknowledges the cheers of the crowd after recording his 602nd career save, after the Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 6-4 in a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York. Rivera pitched a perfect ninth as he broke the record held by Trevor Hoffman.

Rivera stayed and accepted congratulations—Alex Rodriguez, Mark Teixeira and finally Jeter came over to him before the bullpen and bench got there while the Twins watched from their dugout.

"I think it shows what he means to baseball, what he's done," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "I also think it shows the class of the Minnesota Twins."

Eventually, the Twins went back to their lockers and the Yankees did, too. That meant Rivera was left on the mound. He tried to sneak off the field with them, but longtime teammate Jorge Posada pushed him, laughing, onto the mound, where fans cheered him once again.

And who would've thought it, at least back in 1995 when Rivera started out. He began his career as a starter, lasting only 3 1-3 innings and losing 10-0 to the Angels in his debut, before becoming a star in the bullpen. He posted his first save in 1996, working usually as a setup man for John Wetteland.

Rivera's 602 saves have come in 674 chances. Hoffman got his 601 in 677 tries.

Paid attendance was 40,045, less than the capacity crowd and attendant hullabaloo surrounding Jeter's historic hit. STATS LLC said Monday's makeup game drew the fewest fans since the new Yankee Stadium opened.

Red Sox save split to keep wild-card lead at 2

BOSTON (AP)—Boston's lead in the AL wild-card race was down to 1 1/2 games after losing the opener of a doubleheader, and John Lackey wasn't helping things when he gave up three runs in the first inning of the nightcap.

That's when the Red Sox started hitting, and they didn't stop until they were cruising to an 18-9 victory over the Baltimore Orioles that gave them a split of the day-night doubleheader and stopped, for now, their slide in the AL wild-card race.

"We've been playing from a deficit a lot," said Red Sox manager Terry Francona, whose team has fallen behind by three or more runs in 11 of their last 16 games. "That's a hard way to play."

The Orioles won the opener 6-5 to send Boston to its 12th loss in 15 tries. But Jed Lowrie hit a three-run homer in the first inning to erase an early deficit in the late game and give the Red Sox the lead for good, then Jacoby Ellsbury hit an inside-the-park homer to spark a seven-run seventh inning.

The next five batters reached base before Conor Jackson hit a grand slam as Boston matched its season high in runs and hits (20).

The Red Sox lead Tampa Bay by two games in the wild-card standings. The Rays were idle; they open a four-game series against the first-place New York Yankees on Tuesday.

"We need to have fun," Jackson said. "We've been stressing out. We just need to go out and play baseball like when we were 12 years old and have fun."

Mariners, 12, Indians 6, 7 innings, rain

In Cleveland, Mike Carp hit a grand slam into the second deck in right field and drove in five runs during Seattle's nine-run third inning.

The Mariners came in for one day to make up a rainout from May 15, and played in a steady drizzle before the field was covered at the start of the eighth. After waiting 44 minutes, it was called.

Carp connected against reliever Chad Durbin(notes) for a 455-foot shot to put Seattle ahead 11-4. He doubled home the first run in the inning off David Huff (2-6).

Yankees 6, Twins 4

In New York, long regarded as the best closer in baseball, Mariano Rivera now has more saves than anyone else, too.

Rivera set the major league record with career save No. 602 on Monday, pitching a perfect ninth inning to preserve the New York Yankees' 6-4 win over the Minnesota Twins.

With fans standing and cheering from his first pitch to his last, Rivera retired Trevor Plouffe, Michael Cuddyer, and Chris Parmelee to end it. Parmelee looked at strike three—it appeared to be Rivera's signature cutter—and Yankee Stadium roared in approval.

Blue Jays 3, Angels 2, 10 innings

In Toronto, Adam Lind drove in the winning run with a grounder in the 10th inning and the Blue Jays beat the Angels before a tiny crowd in Toronto.

Torii Hunter and Mark Trumbo homered for the Angels but Los Angeles lost for the third time in four games, further denting its chances of reaching the playoffs. The Angels trail first-place Texas by five games in the AL West and are behind both Boston and Tampa Bay in the wild-card race.

Cardinals 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Kyle Lohse outpitched Roy Halladay, and the St. Louis Cardinals held off the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 on Monday night to gain ground on Atlanta in the NL wild-card chase.

Lance Berkman homered and had an RBI single for the surging Cardinals, who moved within 2 1/2 games of the wild card-leading Braves. Atlanta lost at Florida.

St. Louis, which took three of four in the series, has won 10 of 12 overall.

Despite the loss, the NL East champion Phillies clinched home-field advantage throughout the postseason when Milwaukee lost to the Chicago Cubs.

Marlins 6, Braves 5

In Miami, the sliding Atlanta Braves stumbled again, losing to Florida on Omar Infante's two-run homer off Craig Kimbrel with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Atlanta has dropped three of four.

Kimbrel came in with a 5-4 lead and retired the first two batters he faced in the ninth. But Emilio Bonifacio then hit a chopper to third baseman Chipper Jones, who could not come up with the infield hit.

Infante drove a 1-0 pitch to left for his first game-ending homer. His sixth homer of the season came against his former team and handed Kimbrel (4-3) his seventh blown save in 52 chances.

Cubs 5, Brewers 2

In Chicago, Geovany Soto hit a pair of two-run homers and drove in all of Chicago's runs in a victory over Milwaukee.

The loss and St. Louis' win over Philadelphia kept the Brewers' magic number at four for clinching the NL Central. They are looking for their first division title in 29 years.

The Cubs snapped a six-game losing streak to the Brewers.

Astros 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Matt Downs hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Houston beat slumping Cincinnati.

Downs greeted Nick Masset (3-6) with a leadoff drive to left, sending the Astros to their second straight win after a three-game skid. Six Houston pitchers combined for a four-hitter.

Brandon Phillips hit a leadoff homer in the first for Cincinnati, which has lost four straight.

Diamondbacks 1, Pirates 0

In Phoenix, Ian Kennedy pitched eight dominant innings to become the NL's first 20-game winner, Justin Upton hit a broken-bat homer and the Arizona Diamondbacks moved a step closer to their first NL West title in four years with a 1-0 victory the Pittsburgh Pirates on Monday night.

Kennedy (20-4) allowed one hit, walked one and tied his career high with 12 strikeouts to become the fourth Diamondbacks pitcher to reach 20 wins.

Upton led off the sixth with his 31st homer off Jeff Karstens (9-9), snapping off his bat on a shot to left that was upheld by a video review.

Padres 8, Rockies 2

In Denver, Cory Luebke took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, Cameron Maybin and Aaron Cunningham homered and the San Diego Padres beat the slumping Colorado Rockies 8-2 Monday night.

Mark Ellis homered for Colorado's only hit of the game. The Rockies have lost five straight and six of seven.

Colorado shortstop Troy Tulowitzki (left hip), first baseman Todd Helton (back) and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez (right wrist) were out of the lineup.

Manning's 2 TD passes lead Giants over Rams

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) —Steve Spagnuolo and the St. Louis Rams came to the Meadowlands bearing gifts and the New York Giants readily accepted them.

Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes and linebacker Michael Boley scored on a 65-yard fumble return to lead New York to a 28-16 victory over the mistake-prone Rams on Monday night in the first matchup between Giants coach Tom Coughlin and Spagnuolo, his former defensive coordinator.

This one was ugly with mistakes by the Rams (0-2) giving New York (1-1) a crucial win after a disappointing loss to Washington in the season opener.

All four of New York's touchdowns resulted directly from St. Louis mistakes.

Manning hit Hakeem Nicks with a 3-yard TD pass after a muffed punt and Domenik Hixon made a spectacular juggling grab on a 22-yard score after a busted coverage late in the first half.

Manning finished 18 of 29 for 200 yards and one interception.

Sam Bradford threw a touchdown pass and Josh Brown kicked three short field goals for the Rams, who moved up and down the field except in the red zone.

New York Giants wide receiver Domenik Hixon is defended by St. Louis Rams' Craig Dahl during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 19, 2011, in East Rutherford, N.J. Hixon caught the pass for a touchdown. The Giants won the game, 28-16. AP

Bradford, who was 22 of 46 for 331 yards, might have made the biggest mistakes, throwing a pass backward and seeing Boley run it into the end zone.

It was that kind of night for the Rams.

The Rams killed themselves in the red zone. They settled for three short field goals after drives stalled inside the Giants 10, with the first coming after they got a first-and-goal at the 1 following a 68-yard catch and run by Danario Alexander, who had three catches for 122 yards.

New York built a 21-6 halftime lead and was never threatened again.

After Manning threw an interception deep in Rams' territory on the opening drive, the Giants looked lost for a couple of minutes, until the Rams woke them up with their first big mistake.

It resulted because St. Louis was without regular punt returner Danny Amendola.

Greg Salas took his place and muffed Steve Weatherford's punt with Dave Tollefson recovering at the 38.

Nicks, who was questionable for the game with a bruised knee, put New York ahead with the 3-yard TD catch. The score came after New York got a first down at the Rams' 9 after Bradley Fletcher was called for pass interference against Nicks.

A 25-yard field goal by Brown closed the gap to 7-6 later in the quarter, and the Rams seemed to be in position to take the lead early in the second quarter when Bradford moved them to the Giants 27.

However on third-and-8, Bradford tried to throw a halfback screen to Williams who was lined up as a receiver. The pass was thrown backward, making it a lateral and Boley picked up the fumble and ran 65 yards for a touchdown and a 14-6 lead.

The margin grew to 21-6 just before halftime when cornerback Al Harris let Mario Manningham run past him on a first-and-10 from the Giants 47 and Manning hit him in stride for a 31-yard gain.

Hixon made a one-handed catch of Manning's pass - juggling the ball three times with his right hand - for a 22-yard touchdown. He seemed to hurt his right knee on the play and barely played in the second half. He missed all last season after tearing the ACL in his right knee in June.

A 17-yard pass interference penalty against Justin King kept the Giants' opening drive in the second half alive and Jacobs scored one play after Manning got New York a first down with a 23-yard screen pass to Ahmad Bradshaw.

Bradford closed the scoring with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Alexander late in the third quarter.

Two-time Pro Bowl defensive end Justin Tuck played for the Giants after missing the season opener with a neck injury and had five tackles and 1 1/2 sacks.

AP Source: Chiefs' Charles tore left ACL vs Lions

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The season is over for Jamaal Charles.

The All-Pro running back will go on injured reserve after tearing the ACL in his left knee, a person familiar with the injury told The Associated Press, leaving the winless Kansas City Chiefs without one of their best offensive players.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Chiefs do not disclose injury details.

Charles, the NFL's second leading rusher last season, sustained the injury after taking an awkward step finishing off a run in the first quarter of Sunday's 48-3 loss to the Detroit Lions.

Charles had an MRI exam Monday that revealed the extent of the injury, and coach Todd Haley said he would join tight end Tony Moeaki and Pro Bowl safety Eric Berry on injured reserve. Moeaki tore his left ACL in Kansas City's preseason finale against the Green Bay Packers, while Berry tore his left ACL in a 41-7 season-opening loss to the Buffalo Bills.

"Injuries are part of the game," Haley said. "Sometimes through preparation, sometimes just through freak happenings, and we've seen a little of each."

The Chiefs are off to one of the worst starts in NFL history, getting outscored 89-10 by a pair of teams that combined to win 10 games last season. The miserable start has caused talk radio shows to light up with calls for Haley and general manager Scott Pioli to be fired, even though the franchise is coming off a surprising 10-6 season in which it won the AFC West title.

The Kansas City offense has turned the ball over nine times and is averaging 240 yards per game, 30th of 32 teams in the NFL. The defense has been just as bad, allowing nearly 390 yards and a point total exactly four touchdowns more than the league's second-worst defense.

Haley vowed that the Chiefs would keep working to turn things around, but that won't be easy after losing arguably three of their five best players to season-ending injuries.

"You hate to see any of your teammates, whether it's Jamaal, Eric Berry, Tony Moeaki, any one of those guys go down, because we're not just teammates, we're friends," running back Thomas Jones said. "You hate to see a guy that works as hard as Jamaal go down like that."

Charles struggled along with the rest of the Chiefs in their opener against Buffalo, gaining 56 yards on 10 carries. But he appeared to be finding his stride on Kansas City's opening drive against the Lions, taking his first carry around left end for 24 yards.

He got another carry three plays later, this time headed toward the right, and took an awkward step out of bounds after a 3-yard gain before colliding with the Lions' mascot.

Charles immediately grabbed at his left knee and rolled around on the ground before the training staff finally reached him. He was loaded onto a cart and taken to the locker room, and the team initially said his return was doubtful—even though it was clear that he was seriously injured.

How serious wasn't revealed until Monday.

"It's unfortunate, you know, directly for Jamaal because I know Jamaal had high hopes and was excited and worked very hard to be ready to take this to the next level, and now he won't be able to do that," Haley said. "I know he's hurting pretty good inside. That's first and foremost where my feelings go. But as far as our team, we must step up as a team and move forward."

That's easy to say, tougher to do. Charles was coming off a breakout season in which he gained 1,467 yards, second only to the Texans' Arian Foster, and averaged nearly 6 1/2 yards per carry. Charles also caught 45 passes for 468 yards while earning his first trip to the Pro Bowl.

The only silver lining is that the Chiefs have more depth in the backfield than they have at tight end and safety, the two other positions where they've sustained devastating injuries.

Jones has plenty of experience carrying a heavy load, and ran for 896 yards and six TDs last season while logging more carries than Charles. Second-year pro Dexter McCluster also has shown a spark at running back after moving over from slot receiver during the preseason.

"We have very capable, proven guys in the backfield," Chiefs wide receiver Jerheme Urban said. "Coach talks about it all the time, and if you go in any other NFL locker room, they're going to talk about it was well: Somebody goes down, somebody else has to step up."

But what if three players go down, all of them bright young stars?

"That's the nature of the beast, that's the nature of the game," veteran linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "Injuries happen. Things happen on the field that's unfortunate. It's a setback for you, but we're all professionals. Someone has to step up. We have to be that much closer."

Robinson fined $40K for hit on Maclin

NEW YORK (AP)— Dunta Robinson will pay for his flagrant hit on the Eagles' Jeremy Maclin. He won't be suspended.

The NFL on Monday fined the Falcons cornerback $40,000 for the hit in which he led with his helmet and crashed into Maclin in the third quarter of Atlanta's 35-31 win over Philadelphia on Sunday night. Robinson was penalized 15 yards for unnecessary roughness.

The league did not suspend Robinson although it has said hits like the one he put on Maclin could lead to such action. Robinson is a repeat offender, having being fined $25,000 last year for a similar hit on the Eagles' DeSean Jackson that left both players with concussions.

In a letter sent to Robinson, NFL vice president of football operations Merton Hanks noted that "future offenses will result in an escalation of fines up to and including suspension."

Commissioner Roger Goodell was advised of the decision, and said "we felt this was the appropriate discipline."

Asked if this was an example of the hits the NFL is trying to get out of the game, Goodell said, "There's no such thing as a perfect example. There are individual elements of each hit. We're trying to identify the techniques that will make our game safer."

The league said Robinson violated Rule 12, Section 2, Article 9 (a) (2) of the playing rules, which states: "It is a foul if a player initiates unnecessary contact against a player who is in a defenseless posture."

The rule notes that players in a defenseless posture include "a receiver attempting to catch a pass; or who has completed a catch and has not had time to protect himself or has not clearly become a runner."

On the play with 6:12 left in the third quarter, the league said Robinson lowered his head and made forcible contact to the head and neck area of Maclin, who still made the catch. He was slow to leave the field but returned to the game.

Robinson can appeal to former NFL coaches Art Shell and Ted Cottrell, who are paid by the league and the NFL Players Association to handle those cases. Their appeal must be heard by the second Tuesday following notification of the discipline.

Replays clearly showed Robinson leading with his helmet, something the league has been adamant about eliminating. The NFL this year also banned players from launching themselves into a defenseless opponent.

Falcons coach Mike Smith said after the game he thought it was a legal hit and "that's the way we teach it."

"My opinion didn't change," he said Monday before the NFL made its ruling.

Last October, the NFL sent head coaches memos listing those players on their teams who were called for two or more unnecessary roughness penalties since 2008. Ray Anderson, NFL executive vice president of football operations, told The Associated Press this summer the league uses the last two seasons as criteria to determine repeat offenders.

"Player safety is a priority and we will not relent on it," Anderson said in August. "Let me make it very clear, particularly in regard to repeat offenders, that egregious acts will be subject to suspension. We will not feel the need to hesitate in this regard."

Pacquiao opens Baguio camp; Roach arrives for training

Pacquiao

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—The hard grind begins today as Manny Pacquiao officially begins training for his showdown with Juan Manuel Marquez on November 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Having seen and getting disappointed by Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s controversial fourth round knockout of Victor Ortiz on Sunday, Pacquiao said he wants a clear victory over Marquez in their third meeting since 2004.

Varied reactions came after Mayweather knocked out Ortiz with a left hook and right straight just when referee Joe Cortez had presumably called the fight to resume.

Renowned promoter Bob Arum, like many fight fans, told BoxingScene.com that Mayweather's behavior was unsportsmanlike and inexcusable.

But some sportswriters and columnists justified Mayweather's actions, saying it was Ortiz's fault that he dropped his guard and allowed his opponent to exploit the situation.

Filipino promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, a close associate of Pacquiao, offered a novel view of the knockout that became a hot topic in boxing forums.

Salud believes Ortiz was in a position to beat the count by referee Joe Cortez but chose not to, hoping that Mayweather would get disqualified for hitting during the break.

Pacquiao, who's also eyeing a megabuck bout with Mayweather, left his home in Biñan, Laguna, Monday for Baguio City, where he'll toil for three weeks under the watchful eyes of Freddie Roach.

The Hall of Fame trainer was scheduled to arrive early this morning from Los Angeles and then proceed directly to the Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza, base camp of Team Pacquiao in Baguio.

Unlike Pacquiao's previous camps, the pound-for-pound king will no longer start from scratch, having undergone sporadic light training three weeks back.

Filipino assistant trainers Buboy Fernandez and Nonoy Neri supervised Pacquiao's early workouts, while conditioning expert Alex Ariza started to do his chore last week.

Aside from jogging, Pacquiao has done gym work at Planet Jupiter in Makati and at the MP Tower, which he owns, in Sampaloc, Manila.

As a result, Pacquiao told Philboxing.com on Friday that he's shaken off the rust and has regained "the feeling of what it is again to be on top of the ring."

Pacquiao said he's somewhat recovered his speed, strength and punching power and is ready to plunge into serious training. ***(PDI)***

MBI

From Page 28

Cell Pro's chances of keeping up with MBI in the second half were doomed when the latter tightened up its defense in the third period and held the former to single digit in scoring. Jude Loste made only four points and Roy Hernandez and Rocyl Ritual were held to three and two markers, respectively.

MBI hung on to the lead in the fourth quarter with Galarse adding four more points and Noel David making five.

David anchored MBI's good start, sizzling for 11 points in the opening quarter and lifting his team a 23-17 lead. He scored MBI's first seven points, while Art Trajano added eight in the first canto.

Ritual and Herrera kept Cell Pro afloat in the first 10 minutes of the match, as they combined for 13 markers.

In the first few minutes of the second half, David was held to a pair of free throws, but Galarse came off the bench and contributed nine points to give MBI a double-digit lead at halftime, 40-30.

David top-scored for MBI with 26, while Galarse and Trajano chipped in 21 and 14, respectively. Hernandez made 16 markers in the loss.

MBI 71 – David 26, Galarse 21, Trajano 14, Achas 6, Cabrera 2, Cordero 2.

Cell Pro 59 – Hernandez 16, Ritual 14, Herrera 14, Norita 7, Loste 6, Tibayan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 40-30, 58-39, 71-59.

DIOLA

From Page 28

after beating Robert Reyes and Elma Labuson on Friday and downing Victor Regis and Annarose Omori last Sunday.

Reyes and Labuson (4-2) and Regis and Omori (4-2) will battle for the remaining semis ticket in Pool B.

Pool A still has an open race for the two semis berths. Dick Guintu and Oh In Sook have a strong chance of making it to the next round with their flawless 3-0 mark, while Lito Mendoza and Anna Alvarez also hold an unbeaten 2-0 slate. Gigi Zapanta and Jerry Hibi own a 3-1 record, while Gary Bandoja and Kim Boranah and Oh Imbog and Shirley Kim have 2-2 and 1-2 slates, respectively.

In the mixed doubles BB, Bandoja and Sook are likely to get the first semis berth in Pool A with their 6-0 record, while Saul Gargallo and Annette Quiambao are also favored to advance with their 4-0 card. Lito Mendoza and Marylyn Montano are still in the fight, holding similar 4-2 marks.

In Pool B, Oh Imbog and Toshiko Obata and siblings Wowiw Abuel and Lanie Bartolome have 5-0 and 4-0 records, respectively, to boost their playoff chances. Three other pairs are also trying to advance to the next round. The list include Cris Hilario and Annette Ta (3-1) , Diola and Julie Lee (3-2), and Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate (3-2).

There is a three-way battle for the two semis tickets in Pool A of the mixed doubles CC. With their 5-1 record, Nani and Roma Barlao have a slight advantage over Curate and Luis Camacho (4-0) and Brandon Talania and Wendy Fernandez (4-1).

In Pool B, Joel Ortega and Boranah are likely to march into the semis with their 5-1 card, while Kanata Omori and Cleofe Santos (4-0) and Jerome Malasarte and Chris Obaldo (2-1) will fight for the other semis spot.

SONICS

From Page 28

a game behind second-ranked Hi-5 (3-2) in the standings.

The Rollers 2 absorbed its third loss despite taking a 16-11 lead in the opening eight minutes. Lester Vertudez scored six points for Rollers 2, which connected two triples early in the game.

The Sonics then rallied back in the second quarter and took a two-possession lead at halftime, 27-23. Melvin Cadiang led the recovery, nailing six markers in that period.

The Sonics protected the driver's seat in the third period after playing good defense and consistent offense. Nevin Salem fired six early points in the third quarter, which ended with the Sonics already on top by six, 43-37.

The Rollers tried to mount a comeback with a couple of treys at crunch time, but the Sonics' defenders held strong in the clutch. The Sonics also buried five free throws in the closing minutes to secure the victory.

Cadiang and Bryl Alegre finished in double figures for the Sonics with10 points apiece, while Rodney Sacramento led the Rollers 2 with 13.

Mandatory meeting tomorrow

Meanwhile, U19 coaches or team representatives are required to attend an organizational meeting at the TSL Sports Complex scheduled immediately following tomorrow 's game. Age eligibility requirements and entrance fee submissions will be discussed at the meeting.

Before the meeting, Kagman (2-2) will take on the Chalan Kanoa Blazers (2-3) at the 5pm tussle.

Sonics 60 – Alegre 10, Cadiang 10, De Guzman 8, Caro 7, Aranda 6, Salem 6, Salas 5, Palacios 4, Ecalnea 2, Tudela 1.

Rollers 2 55 – Sacramento13, Metran 12, Vertudez 12, DL Guerrero 6, Iglecias 5, Maranan 3, Danas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-16, 27-23, 43-37, 60-55.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

panta, Alexa Vergara, Mikky Vargas, and Janeeka Atalig recorded one goal each for Shirley's B. Shirley's B finished third in the eight-team field with its 9-5-0 record, one win ahead of Red Team (8-5-1).

MEN'S
Red Inter 7, IT&E 3

Red Inter placed second in the men's division after a 7-3 triumph over IT&E.

Red Inter finisher the season with a 9-3-2 record, two wins behind champion Wild Bill's, while IT&E was ranked fifth with its 5-7-2 card.

Edwin Cruz and Arkie Reusora canned two goals apiece in their last game, while David Duenas, Peter Houk, and Dale Roberts added one each.

Kirk Schuler, Yishan Wang, and Jin Han Yoon scored for IT&E.

Mellow Yellow 8, Go Green 2

Mellow Yellow also ended its campaign in the men's league on a winning note, thumping Go Green, 8-2.

Woo Ho Jin, Young Sin Lim, and Dhras Chetku tallied two goals each for Mellow Yellow, which drew one goal apiece from Kevin McCale and Man Ki Doh.

Panapa Peteru and Jack Phan were the only two players to score for Go Green, which finished sixth with its 4-7-3 slate. Mellow Yellow was ranked seventh with its 4-9-1 card.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	92	60	.605	–
Boston	88	66	.571	5
Tampa Bay	85	67	.559	7
Toronto	78	75	.510	14 1/2
Baltimore	63	90	.412	29 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Detroit	89	64	.582	–
Cleveland	75	76	.497	13
Chicago	74	78	.487	14 1/2
Kansas City	67	87	.435	22 1/2
Minnesota	59	93	.388	29 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	88	65	.575	–
Los Angeles	83	70	.542	5
Oakland	69	84	.451	19
Seattle	64	89	.418	24

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	98	54	.645	–
Atlanta	87	67	.565	12
New York	73	80	.477	25 1/2
Washington	72	79	.477	25 1/2
Florida	70	84	.455	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	90	64	.584	–
St. Louis	84	69	.549	5 1/2
Cincinnati	74	80	.481	16
Chicago	68	86	.442	22
Pittsburgh	68	86	.442	22
Houston	53	100	.346	36 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	89	65	.578	–
San Francisco	83	70	.542	5 1/2
Los Angeles	76	76	.500	12
Colorado	70	83	.458	18 1/2
San Diego	66	88	.429	23

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Baltimore 6, Boston 1st game
N.Y. Yankees 6, Minnesota 4
Seattle 12, Cleveland 6 innings
Toronto 3, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings
Boston 18, Baltimore 2nd game
St. Louis 4, Philadelphia 3
Florida 6, Atlanta 5
Houston 3, Cincinnati 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 2
San Diego 8, Colorado 2
Arizona 1, Pittsburgh 0

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	0	0	1.000	73	45
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	79	42
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	59	27
Miami	0	2	0	.000	37	61

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	2	0	0	1.000	57	20
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	19	46
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	40	29
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	26	61

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	48	33
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	49	41
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	44	46
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	31	35

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	58	58
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	45	52
Denver	1	1	0	.500	44	45
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	10	89

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	50	35
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	51	51
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	62	48
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	42	44

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	64	55
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	47	61
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	44	47
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	44	58

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	72	57
Detroit	2	0	0	1.000	75	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	43	42
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	37	48

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	57	44
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	49	43
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	29	59
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	17	57

Yesterday's Game

N.Y. Giants 28, St. Louis 16

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMIFA names spring league's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The much awaited list of top performers in the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League is now out with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association recognizing 31individuals for their outstanding performance at the pitch early this year.

Named to the Best 11 in the boys U15 league are MP United defenders Kennedy Izuka and John Taisacan, midfielders Angelo Jones and Dakota Hall and forward Jehn Joyner; Matansa goal keeper Dale Ballesteros and forward Sean Perez; Tan Holdings defenders Kenneth Domingo and Marc Mora; and Paire midfielder Hunter Jewell.

MP United ruled the boys U15 division after sweeping the two-round robin regular season, which started in March and concluded in May.

Besides competing for their respective teams in the spring league, Izuka, Taisacan, Jones, Hall, Joyner, Perez, Domingo, and Jewell also suited up for the CNMI U15 Team that joined the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament. The Commonwealth strikers went on to record its historic first win in an international tournament after beating Macau, 2-1.

The girls U15 division also has its roll of top strikers in the past spring league. The list includes Matansa defender Natasha Quitano, forwards Tahlia Hideo and Andrea Camacho, and midfielder Jace Pineda; MP United defender Gabrielle Race and goal keeper Masami Sato; and Paire defender Juanita Muna and midfielders Seoung Hyun Lee and Mikaela Duenas.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Gabrielle Race, seen here getting ready for a pass during their game against Paire in the spring league, was among the best U15 players NMIFA recognized.

Matansa topped the three-round robin league with a 7-1-1 record and 22 points to take its fifth girls U15 tiara. The eventual champion scored 23 goals with 12 of them coming from Hideo and six from Camacho.

In the boys U18, five players from champion MP United made it to the Best 11 list. Leading the cast are forwards Dae Min Jeon and Yong Park, defender Moon Bin Hong, and midfielders Taek Han Yoon and Chris Park. Joining the five MP United strikers are Matansa goal keeper Harrison Smith and defender Raphael Zapanta; Independents midfielder Celton Borja and defender Anthony Foster; and Paire midfielder Devin Atalig and defender Mason Fruit.

MISO leagues start next month

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will be kicking off the boys volleyball and girls basketball leagues next month.

Six teams make up this year's boys volleyball competition, which is set to tip off on Oct. 3 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Four games will be played in the opening day of the boys volleyball league with Grace Christian Academy taking on MHS 1 on the north end and MHS 2 meeting Saipan Southern High School on the south court at 4pm.

Then at 5pm, Saipan International School duels Kagman High School on the north side, while both MHS squads will battle it out on the south end.

Boys volleyball games will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays with two teams pulling double duty in rotation per round.

Regular season matches in the boys volleyball will run throughout October, while the playoff round will be held from Nov. 8 to 10.

The KHS Ayuyus are the three-time defending champions and will be looking to extend their reign in the boys league. Kagmang swept MHS 1 in the finals last season, 25-12, 25-18.

The four-team girls basketball league is set to start on Oct. 4 with the SIS Lady Geckos squaring off against the Kagman Lady Ayuyus.

The Lady Dolphins of MHS and the Lady Manta Rays of Southern are the other two competing teams in the varsity division, which will be played beginning at 5:30p after the junior varsity tiff at 4:30pm. Since Kagman, MHS, and Southern are the only squads participating in the junior varsity division, teams playing SIS in the varsity will have their games starting at 4:30pm.

Girls basketball matches will be played every Tuesday and Thursday and regular season games will run through Nov. 15. The Lady Dolphins are this season's defending champions, spoiling Kagman's bid for a fourth straight title after a 70-33 victory in the finals.

Meeting tonight at Southern

Meanwhile, separate organizational meetings are scheduled tonight at Saipan Southern High School. The girls basketball and boys volleyball meetings are set for 5pm and 5:45pm, respectively.

GBL IT&E Cup to hold side events

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Team representatives and organizers of the Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup pose for a group photo after an organizational meeting last Monday at Hard Rock Café.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

To spice up the inaugural Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup, organizers will be holding side events during the competition at the Garapan Basketball Court.

There will be half court shootouts for spectators, exhibition games for U16 players, and an All-Star game for selected cagers. Gift certificates and other prizes await winners of these side events.

However, the biggest winner in the GBL IT&E Cup will be the champion team of the inaugural competition, as $1,000 is at stake in the finals. The champion squad will also take home a trophy, while individual top performers will receive awards, too.

So far, the first GBL IT&E Cup has attracted 12 teams, buts only the first nine to settle the $500 entrance fee will be allowed to play. Payment should be made by Oct. 7 and the team to complete the entrance fee on or before Sept. 30 will get a $50 discount for the league's second season that will run from May to July.

The inaugural GBL IT&E Cup will kick off on Oct. 16 and will run until December.

Teams are allowed to have a maximum of 14 players on their roster and they should be at least 18 years old.

Friday meeting

Meanwhile, representatives of interested squad are requested to attend a meeting this Friday at 7pm at Hard Rock Café.

Competition rules and other important matters will be discussed at the meeting.

Games in the GBL will be officiated by referees from the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

GBL is organized by league director Rey Perez, committee members Rolly Paraiso and Kermit Concepcion, BANMI officials Gabe White and Abner Venus and logistics officer Joshua Jomar.

For more information about the GBL IT&E Cup, email gbl670@yahoo.com or visit the group's Facebook page listed under Garapan Basketball League.

Isidro places in three September races

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Kyosho SC-R Ultima flies over a ramp during last Sunday's Saipan Radio Control Racers' Electric 1/10 Short Course Stock event in As Lito.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Rommel Isidro made it to the podium three times during the Saipan Radio Control Racers September event held last Sunday in As Lito.

Isidro took the checkered flag in the Electric 1/10 Short Course Open Class race ahead of runner-up Jude Dickinson and Leo Gatus. Top qualifier Paul Guerrero fell short of making it to the Top 3 in the final heat. All four drivers used TraXXas Slash cars.

Dickinson took the pole in the Electric 1/10 Short Course Stock event, but in the end settled for another silver finish, this time behind Paul Salalila's Kyosho SC-R Ultima, while Isidro claimed the third spot.

Rodney Catalla's Team Associated RT-8T finished first in the Nitro 1/8 Truggy Class race, ahead of Isidro's Mugen MBX5T, while Emir Abuan's Kyosho STRR beat top qualifier Jojo Saracho for third place. Saracho drove a Mugen MBX6T.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, and they regularly take part in practices at the As Lito track every Saturday from 2pm to 6pm.

The group tries to hold a day-long race, once a month, usually on Sundays from 9am to 5pm and hosts events in three classes. The open class, intended for novice drivers, was added as a result of additional turnout. The public is welcome to check out the track to learn more about their sport/hobby.

For more information, contact Rodney Catalla at 234-5911, 256-7119, or email drrc35@yahoo.com.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

MBI enters finals of Blue Haus caging

MBI's Noel David slashes to the basket against Cell Pro defenders during their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc. clinched the first finals berth in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after beating Cell Pro in their playoff game, 71-59, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MBI will battle the championship against the winner of tonight's do-or-die game between Cell Pro-Sherwin Williams. MBI will have a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round, as it is unbeaten in the playoffs. MBI won over Sherwin William in its first playoff match last Friday, 71-66.

In its second game in the three-team playoffs, MBI played with the same fire to book the first finals berth.

An 18-9 scoring in the third quarter was all MBI needed to pull away and cruise to the 12-point win. Already ahead by 10 at the break, 40-30, MBI stretched the advantage to 19, 58-39, behind Leo Galarse's eight points. Five other MBI players made it to the scoreboard in the third period.

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Diola, Choi advance at Shirley's Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mario Diola and Hannah Choi maintained their perfect record in the mixed doubles 40-and-above division of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic after notching two more wins in Week 3 at the TSL Sports Complex.

The duo now has a 5-0 record in the eight-team Pool B for the lead and a spot to the semifinals. Only the Top 2 teams in each pool will advance to the semifinals and Diola and Choi claimed one of the two spots in their group

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Mario Diola stretches for a return during his and Hannah Choi mixed doubles 40-and-above game in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sonics on a roll in Rotary caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics stretched their winning streak to five after defeating the Rollers 2, 60-55, in their U19 division game in the 2011 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory solidified the Sonics' hold on the top spot in the eight-team field. They have yet to drop a match since losing in the season opener to the defending champions Ol'Aces. The Rollers 2 fell to an even 3-3 slate and sits

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Sonics' Melvin Cadiang, right, drives against Rollers 2's Rainier Deleon Guerrero during their U19 game in the Rotary caging last Monday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Shirley's A takes women's futsal crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's A clinched the women's championship in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League despite losing to sister team Shirley's B, 1-4, on Monday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

Thanks to Red Team's 3-3 draw against IT&E Awesome in the earlier game, Shirley's A didn't have to win its last game of the season to take the women's tiara.

Coming into Monday night's games, Shirley's A held an 11-2-0-win-loss-draw record, while IT&E had a 10-2-1 mark. Had IT&E Awesome won over Red Team, the former could have improved its record to 11-2-1 and gained 35 points in the double-round robin competition, two points ahead of Shirley's A, which ended the season with 33 points and an 11-3-0 card after bowing to Shirley's B. IT&E Awesome wrapped up the competition with 32 markers and a 10-2-2 slate.

Shirley' A's Jeraldine Castillo stops the ball in this file photo taken during their game against Shirley's B in the first round of the women's futsal league last month at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E Awesome was in danger of dropping an important match when Red Team took a 2-1 advantage at the break. Temary Gramlich and Zoe Jewell scored one goal apiece for Red Team, whole Nola Hix made IT&E Awesome's lone goal in the opening frame.

Hix logged another one in the second half, while Michelle Masga also found the back of the net for IT&E's 3-2 advantage. However, Jewell also scored in the second half, foiling IT&E Awesome's title bid.

In the second women's game, Shirley's A played with no pressure, as the championship was already in the bag after the IT&E Awesome-Red Team draw.

Only Maria Iriarte hit a goal for Shirley's A, while Gigi Za-

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